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Ye Olde Mint

A Brief Historical Description of the First United States Mint, Established by Congress in 1792, at Seventh Street and Sugar Alley [now Filbert Street], Philadelphia.

By FRANK H. STEWART.

Illustrated with Photographs.

[Ed. Note: This interesting historical account of the first United States Mint is the result of an enormous amount of research on the part of the author. While the numismatists of today are generally acquainted with the history and the more important details of our present mints, very little is known by them of the history of our first mint It gives us, therefore, no little pleasure to be able to offer our readers this excellent article, through the kindness of Mr Stewart, to whom we are also indebted for the fine illustrations accompanying it.]

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FOREWORD

The great interest shown in numismatics and antiquities nowadays has caused this imperfect endeavor to collate some of the interesting historical data still in existence regarding the first United States Mint, and also at the same time preserve by means of photographs and descriptions the present appearance of the old buildings.

Practically every chronological list of important events which have happened in the United States records the establishment of the first United States Mint in Philadelphia in 1792, and if anyone has the time and inclination to investigate the history and coinage of the mint for the first forty years of its existence, and publish to the numismatic world the result of his research, I shall be satisfied if my efforts here should furnish the slightest inspiration.

Numismatists very rarely, if ever, pay any attention to the persons who made their rare and valuable specimens of coins, and probably still less attention to the places where they were made.

The great majority of the rare United States coins were made in buildings still standing at 37 and 39 North Seventh Street, Philadelphia, or, to be more exact, in the coinage building in the rear of these numbers. Until recently these buildings were unmarked, and the people of the neighborhood in a great many instances were unaware of the fact that for a period of forty years all

of the United States coins were made so near at hand. Those who daily walked past the buildings had nothing to direct their attention to them, and it is safe to say that not five hundred persons in Philadelphia could point out what at one time was one of the most important buildings in the United States, as well as the first erected under authority of Congress for Federal purposes.

The author purchased the buildings and feels that it is his duty to do what he can to describe them before they are demolished, and also at the same time publish such data in his possession as may prove interesting or valuable to the limited few who collect rare coins or are in any way interested in what was an exceedingly important department of our early national life.

FRANK H. STEWART.

Ye OLDE MINT

The first United States mint buildings are indeed historical in more ways than one, and while a number of suggestions have been made for their preservation, it is highly probable they will eventually be located by the means of a bronze tablet on the front of the steel and concrete structure in contemplation for the use of the Frank H. Stewart Electric Company, who now occupy the buildings adjoining them on the south and east The retention of the buildings on the present site is prohibited on account of the great value of the land and its location in the heart of the business section, and their removal by private enterprise to another site unlikely because of the great expense that such removal would entail.

If a few 1804 dollars, which now have a record price of thirty-six hundred dollars each, should be found in the buildings, their removal would be rendered easier, provided they were found before the destruction of the buildings, but this is highly improbable, although there will undoubtedly be a few coins discovered, as there were when the building was erected on the Filbert Street lot on the site of the old mint smelting house, which is contiguous to the Seventh Street lot.

Washington in his first annual address to Congress referred to the importance of uniformity in the currency.

His second annual address urged the importance of the establishment of a mint.

In his third address he spoke of disorders in the existing currency, the scarcity of change, and recommended carrying into effect the resolution already entered into concerning the establishment of a mint; also remarked that measures had been taken for procuring some of the most necessary artists, together with the necessary apparatus.

His fourth address referred to employment of artists, both from abroad and at home, to aid in the establishment of the mint. He also stated that provision had been made for the requisite buildings, which were then being put in proper condition, and spoke of a small beginning in the coinage of half "dismes."

His sixth annual address stated "the mint had entered upon the coinage of the precious metals, and there was a pleasing prospect that the institution would at no remote day realize the expectation which was originally formed of its utility."

His seventh annual address called attention to "the necessity of further legislation for checking abuses in particular quarters, and for carrying its business more completely into effect."

It will be seen from Washington's reference in six out of eight of his mes-

sages to Congress to the currency and mint that he was deeply interested in the matter and considered it of more than ordinary importance.

It has been stated that he was a frequent visitor to the mint, and that the first silver dismes and half dismes were made from silver contributed by him. The will of John L. Kates, a former owner of the buildings, says that the corner-stone was laid by Washington, but this is unlikely, as he was not in Philadelphia the day on which it is supposed to have been laid. The contents of the corner-stone when found will undoubtedly contain something of great interest to antiquarians.

COINAGE BUILDING
Rear of 37 and 39 North Seventh Street

The original buildings, with the exception of the smelting house, still stand at 37 and 39 North Seventh Street, and in the rear of these numbers. There were three different brick buildings, all separated by yards and alleys, those facing Seventh Street were used for executive offices, etc. Immediately back of them was the one used as the coinage departmnt, and back of that was the small two-story building facing Filbert Street and about twenty feet back of the line of that street. The old building used as the smelting house was torn down the latter part of 1907, and a four-story concrete building erected on the site.

The illustration on page 3 shows the front buildings facing Seventh Street, and the illustration on page 7 the coinage building back of them, which is separated from the front buildings by a court yard 18 feet deep. Inasmuch as considerable attempt at ornamentation was made on the front of the coinage building, it is quite probable that this was the first building erected. Tradition has it that this was originally three stories high and that the top story was burned off. If such was the case the third story was of wooden construction. The walled up windows in the rear show the window sills to be badly charred.

Remains of old arched brick vaults still exist in the basement of 39 North Seventh Street.

The building in the rear, used as the coinage department, has two arched and paved brick vaults in its basement intact except the doors. One of the vaults has a smaller vault in its rear end, which was undoubtedly used as a storage place for the most valuable of the mint's possessions. Strong brick arches and exceedingly heavy joists, averaging twelve inches square, were placed in the basement to support the coinage presses above.

The building formerly facing Filbert Street had no basement, and when excavations were made for the new building, two old brick-walled wells were uncovered, one of which was four feet in diameter, with cesspool refuse in the bottom. The other well was about seven feet in diameter and the bottom was not reached, as the excavations only went down about 12 feet. These wells were between the old building and Filbert Street. The larger one was three or four feet back of the center of the property at 35 North Seventh Street, and the other was just off the southeast corner of the demolished building. It is quite likely that the largest well furnished water for the distillery of Michael Shubart.

It is interesting to note that in the excavations on the site of the old building, several copper coins and planchets were found. Two worthy of mention are about the size of half-cents, but with small holes in the center, one of them having a milled edge, the other a plain edge. They are supposed to be planchets for the excessively rare 1792 silver center cents, which must certainly have been struck off at the mint, otherwise the planchets would not have been found there. The author now has these finds in his possession, as well as a collection of hand forged hardware taken off the old building.

On May 8, 1792, the director of the mint was authorized, with the approbation of the President, to purchase a quantity of copper for the coinage of cents and half-cents, and Congress also provided that when fifty thousand (50,000) dollars of such cents and half-cents had been coined, notice should be given to the public in at least two newspapers, and that any attempt to pass other copper coins would result in their forfeiture.

From a national viewpoint the old mint buildings are the most historical in the United States, because they were the first erected by the authority of the Federal Government for public use. It was the sole United States Mint from 1792 to 1833. The corner-stone was laid July 31, 1792, and presumably by David Rittenhouse, the celebrated astronomer and philosopher and first director of the mint. The achievements of Rittenhouse very readily place him in the same distinguished class as Benjamin Franklin.

The ground on which the first United States mint buildings stand was sold by William Penn to the Pennsylvania Land Company, and transferred to it by deed dated August 12, 1699, "in the 11th year of our Sovereign Lord King William III, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland."

The Pennsylvania Land Company then consisted of Tobias Collett, haber-

BASEMENT OF COINAGE BUILDING
Showing Press Supports and Hammered One Inch Square Iron Window Bars. Timbers Average 12 Inches Square. Cut Shows Nearly One-Half of Basement.

dasher; Michael Russell, weaver; Daniel Quare, watchmaker, and Henry Goldney, linen-draper, all of London, England.

The deed was signed by Penn August 17, 1699, and was stamped with two six-penny stamps. The consideration was £2,000. Herbert Springett, Wm. Martin and Wm. Springett acted as witnesses.

The mint grounds are part of "six inland city lots, lying between the two rivers, Delaware and Schuylkill."

This deed, in addition to the six city lots which were evidently thrown in as a bonus, covered two river front lots, one on the Delaware and one on the Schuylkill, also 60,310 acres of land, variously and indefinitely located for the greater part. Two hundred and ten acres of this land was granted by warrant to Richard Noble, "old renter," by Penn the 14th day of 5th month, 1683, and afterwards by a patent to Noble the 5th day of the 6th month, 1685, by Thomas Lloyd, James Claypoole and Robert Turner, commissioners for Penn.

Another parcel of 100 acres of this land was part of a tract of 309 acres, "granted by an order from New York," and surveyed on or about the 12th day of May, 1679, unto Wm. Clark, and afterwards disposed of to Richard Noble, and which was on the 8th day of the 8th month, 1689, granted and confirmed unto Noble by Wm. Markham and John Goodson, commissioners for Penn.

The 310 acres were transferred to Penn by Noble February 22, 1695.

The Penn deed to the Pennsylvania Land Company gives recital of grant to Penn by Charles II.

Richard Noble came over in the ship Griffith with John Fenwick in 1675 and landed at Salem, N. J. The Griffith was the first English ship to land in west New Jersey.

Noble surveyed and plotted the town of Burlington, N. J., in 1677, and on December 15, 1679, was appointed surveyor by Governor Andross, of New York, as surveyor of Upland, now Chester, Pa. He also surveyed a part of the present site of Philadelphia for the Swedes, Swansons, in 1681.

Wm. Markham was a cousin of Wm. Penn and landed in America in 1681. He at one time held a captaincy in the English army. He was the first Deputy-Governor of Pennsylvania.

Thomas Loyd was president of council, justice of the peace of Philadelphia, and "de facto" Deputy-Governor in 1690. He founded, under Penn's instructions, the first public school in Pennsylvania in 1689.

James Claypoole built the first brick house in Philadelphia, and was a member of council in 1687 and one of the Free Society of Traders.

Robert Turner was a close friend of Penn, and at one time a merchant of Dublin, Ireland. Penn was in frequent correspondence with him and, among other things, wrote him on May 5, 1681, how and why the name of Pennsylvania was selected. He was also a member of the Free Society of Traders.

John Goodson was a prominent man in the early days of the settlement of Pennsylvania, and like Markham, Lloyd, Claypoole, Turner and others empowered to sell land for Penn.

The Pennsylvania Land Company held possession until December 26, 1758, when Francis Rawle, acting as its attorney, transferred a parcel containing part of the mint lots to Daniel Roberdeau, he being the highest bidder at a public sale.

This piece of land was described as a "certain piece of ground situate on the east side of the Seventh Street from the Delaware, City of Philadelphia, containing in breadth on the said street 50 feet, and in length or depth 198 feet, or thereabouts, be the same more or less, to the middle or half way between

Sixth Street and Seventh Street," bounded on the south by the back ends of High Street (now Market) and on the north by land of Rebecca Cooper.

On December 26, 1758 (the same date as the Roberdeau deed) Francis Rawle, attorney for Thomas Hyam, merchant; Thomas Reynolds, cloth-worker, and Thomas How, goldsmith, only surviving feoffees in trust of the

MINT OFFICE BUILDING
37 and 39 North Seventh Street
Undoubtedly the first brick building erected by act of Congress for public use

Pennsylvania Land Company, sold to Rebecca Cooper, spinster, as the highest bidder at public sale, "a certain piece of ground situate on the east side of the Seventh Street from Delaware in the said City of Philadelphia, containing in breadth on the same street 50 feet."

This lot was also 198 feet deep and bounded on the east by land conveyed to

Richard Farmer, as was the ground sold to Daniel Roberdeau. Joshua Howell and William Govett were witnesses on both the deeds and both were acknowledged before Isaac Jones, Justice.

Daniel Roberdeau, by deed dated February 27, 1759, conveyed to Richard Farmer, practitioner in physics, the same piece of ground he purchased at auction of the Pennsylvania Land Company. Deed witnessed by H. W. Dovey and John Reily.

Rebecca Cooper, by deed dated April 3, 1759, also sold to Richard Farmer the ground she purchased at auction of the Pennsylvania Land Company. Her lot was bounded on the south by ground late of Daniel Roberdeau.

These two pieces of ground of 50 feet each on Seventh Street, each contained part of what afterwards became the mint lot, which faced Seventh Street, and which was, and now is, 36 feet 10 inches front, with another lot making an outlet on Filbert Street, now covered by a four-story concrete and steel-frame building occupied by the Frank H. Stewart Electric Company, and connected by openings with the building on the northeast corner of Seventh and Filbert Streets, also occupied by the same concern.

Richard Farmer and wife, by deed dated September 1, 1760, conveyed to Michael Shubart, distiller, "two certain pieces of ground," one of which was located on Seventh Street, with a frontage of 36 feet and 10 inches and with a depth of 99 feet, which was bounded on the south by a piece of ground sold by Farmer to George Keller, 20 feet by 99 feet.

The other piece of ground was on the north side of a certain 14-foot alley (now Filbert Street, mentioned for the first time) containing in breadth 17 feet on the alley and 56 feet 10 inches deep, connecting with above lot in the rear and for its entire width, as well as the Keller lot.

The consideration was a yearly ground rental of 21 Spanish silver pieces of 8 of 17 pennyweight and 6 grains each, with the option within seven years of cancellation by payment of 133 pounds, lawful money of Pennsylvania.

Shubart agreed to erect within four years on one of the pieces of ground one good brick kitchen, or tenement, or other brick building at least 15 feet square.

This deed was witnessed by Robert Wilson, Jr., and John Clarkson; acknowledged by Wm. Peters, justice.

This transfer shows that the High Street lots, near Seventh Street, extended at one time back to what is now Filbert Street, and also that Richard Farmer's land was taken in whole or in part for the purpose of what then was termed an alley, and later known as Sugar Alley, then Farmers Street, and now Filbert Street.

James Ash, high sheriff, on May 27, 1790, conveyed to Frederick Hailer the land purchased by Shubart from Farmer, together with a tenement distill house and coppers, distills worms, cisterns, tubs and other utensils belonging to said distillery.

This conveyance was subject to the payment of the yearly ground rent of 21 Spanish pieces of 8.

Jacob Barge was the creditor who caused the sale.

Frederick Wailer, surgeon barber, and wife, Christiana, July 18, 1792, sold to the United States Government the land and distill house and frame tenement building formerly owned by Shubart.

This deed recites the Act of Congress referred to elsewhere, and states "the President in pursuance thereof caused to be purchased from said Wailer, etc., etc."

Wailer made a nice profit. He bought it for 515 pounds and sold it for 4,266 2-3 dollars, subject to the ground rent as before.

This deed was acknowledged by Wailer and wife before James Biddle, president of the Court of Common Pleas, of the County of Philadelphia, July 21, 1792.

During the entire time the government owned the property it paid an annual ground rent, which seems rather strange now.

On July 1, 1792, Washington appointed David Rittenhouse director of the mint, and on July 19th, the day following the purchase, eight carpenters, besides other laborers, commenced to tear down the distillery, and on August 25th the frame work for the new building was raised.

Work on the bellows furnaces was commenced September 7th, and on September 11th six pounds of old copper for coinage was purchased at the price of one shilling three pence per pound.

Three coining presses, imported from Europe, arrived September 21st, and in October they were in operation.

On December 30, 1792, Jefferson, then Secretary of State, wrote Pinckney, our minister to Enland, about the difficulty of procuring copper, and suggested Sweden as a source of supply and enclosed draft on the treasury of the United States for $10,000.

We regret that for lack of space we are unable to run the entire article in this issue. We shall conclude it in the next issue.—Ed.

AN INTERESTING NUMISMATIC FIND

By John Armstrong Foster, F.R.N.S.

In the course of pulling down some outhouses by a farmer of Espaly, Sainte Marcel, in the demesne of the castle the bishops of puy had built in the fourteenth century, and which was destroyed by the Royalist troops in the religious wars, there has just been discovered a lead coin or medal, between the size of a five-franc and a two-franc piece, bearing the effigy of Joan of Arc. On the obverse of the medal is the figure of the shepherdess of Domremy on her knees, with her flock, and listening to the warnings of St. Michael, who appears in rays of light, under the guise of a winged warrior, the lance in his left hand. On the reverse is the Pucelle on horseback, ready for battle, with helmet and breastplate, flying a banner and brandishing her victorious sword. while her charger is represented in galloping attitude. The medal bears the legend: "JEANNE d'ARC, 1409-1431."

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THE MONTREAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society was held in the Chateau de Ramezay December 19th, at which Judge Sicotte presided. There was a large attendance, numbering some fifty members. Sir Gordon Johnson was elected a member.

The president's address showed that eight regular meetings of the society had been held in 1909, at which papers were read. Seven new members had been elected and nine gentlemen had qualified as life governors. He referred to the impossibility of holding the regular excursion this year, but expressed a hope that arrangements could be made to visit the archives department and the mint at Ottawa next spring. Four numbers of the Canadian Antiquarian—the society's publication—had been issued, containing most interesting unpublished matter relating to the Dominion. Six members had been removed by death. They were Messrs. E. Bolete, Henry Mott, Judge Camille Piche, Sir Henri Taschereau, the Hon. J. R. Thibaudeau, and W. McLea Walbank, who had at the last meeting qualified as life governor. He also reported that a grant of ten thousand dollars had been asked from the city council for the maintenance of the institution, and he had great hopes that it would be accorded, as it is easily represented by a ten-cent admission fee on the some one hundred thousand visitors that each year come to admire the society's collection.

The treasurer reported receipts amounting to $3,707.70, and expenditure (including $400 for repairs, $30 for the library and $900 for the National Gallery) of $3,379.90, leaving a balance of $527.80 on hand.

The honorary curator's report showed the following additions to the collection: Eight Canadian antiquities, four coins and medals, five Canadian portraits in oil, three photographs, six engravings of Canadian scenes and five of foreign scenes. This was away below the annual accessions previously reported; but the limited number is made up by the great importance of the Lafontaine portraits.

The librarian reported that shelving for fifty thousand volumes had been set up in the upper part of the building, and the books that had been piled up in the council room placed on the shelves, a card catalogue had been begun, and already some ten thousand of the thirty thousand to catalogue.

The election resulted in the following officers being chosen for 1910: President, Judge L. W. Sicotte; Vice Presidents, Mr. Justice Lafontaine, Ludger Gravel, L. G. A. Cresse, W. D. Lighthall, C. T. Hart, James Reid; Treasurer, George Durnford; Honorary Curator, R. W. McLachlan; Recording Secretary, C. A. Harwood; Corresponding Secretary, Pemberton Smith; Librarian, Victor Morin. Members of Council: P. O. Tremblay, A. S. Hamlin, G. N. Moncel, Abbe N. Dubois, S. M. Baylis, S. W. Ewing, J. C. A. Heriot, Robert Pinkerton, A Chausse.

The Moneys of the Ancients

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By S. SANDERS.

The following are Larcher's observations in his notes to Herodotus, on the moneys of the ancients:

"At the time of the siege of Troy, the use of money was unknown to the Greeks. Neither Homer nor Hesiod speak of gold or silver money; they express the value of things by a certain number of sheep or oxen; they indicate the wealth of a man by the number of his flocks, and that of the country by the abundance of its pastures, and the quantity of its metals. In the camp before Troy, trade was carried on in money; the wines of Lemnos were bought with

GREEK SILVER COINS

1, Tetradrachm ef Rhodes, B. C. 304-168. 2, Tetradrachm of Ephesus, Ionia, B. C. 394-295 3, Tetradrachm of Aenus, Thrace, B. C 450-400. 4, Stater of Abdera, Thrace, B. C. 408-350. 6, Stater of Thebes, Head of Dionysius, B. C. 426-387. 7, Tetradrachm of Samos, Ionia, B. C. 394-365.

copper, iron, skins, oxen, slaves, etc. (See the Iliad, book VII, verses 473-475.)

"Lucan (Pharsal, lib. VII, verse 402) attributes the invention of money to Itonus, King of Thessaly, and son of Deucalion; whilst others ascribe it to Erichthonius, King of Athens, who was said to be the son of Vulcan, and who was brought up by the daughters of Cecrops. Aglaosthenes attributes the glory of the invention to the inhabitants of the isle of Naxos. The most common opinion is that Phidon, King of Argos, contemporary with Lycurgus and Iphitus, first brought money into use in the island of Ægina, to afford its inhabitants the facility of subsisting by commerce, their island being remarkably barren. (See Strabo, book VIII, page 577.) We have some coins of this prince which represent on one side the gus, for the purchase of her house. From the time that Lysander pillaged Athens, the Lacedaemonians began to have money, both of gold and silver; but this was limited to the public transactions, the use of it being forbidden to private individuals, on pain of death. The form of the small money of the Greeks was very remarkable. According to Plutarch (in Lysandro, page 442) they were small rods or pieces of iron, or copper, called "obeli" (spits), when the word "obelus;" and the name of "drachma" (handful) was given to a piece of money of the value of six oboli; because six of these little rods or bars made a handful. (See Eustathius, in Iliad, page 102.)

"Neither does it appear that, before the time of Darius, the son of Hystaspes, money was in use among the Persians. Darius regulated the trib-

Tetradrachme of Agrigentum, 415-406 B. C.

species of buckler called by the Latins "ancile" and on the other a small pitcher of grapes, with the word "PHIDO." Plutarch (in Lycurgo) informs us that Lycurgus, with a totally opposite design, and to alienate the Lacedaemonians from any commerce with strangers, caused to be manufactured a coarse, heavy coin, of iron, steeped in vinegar whilst red hot, in order to render it unfit for any other use.

"According to Athenaeus (lib. VI, cap. IV) neither gold nor silver was suffered at Lacedaemon. A certain number of oxen was given to the widow of King Polydorus, who reigned about 130 years after Lycur-

ute which he required of his subjects, and the weight in gold and silver was separately melted in earthen pots; the pots were broken afterwards, and the metal cut from the mass as it was wanted.

"Darius caused coins to be struck of the purest gold, which were called Darics. We do not learn that any king had done so before him. Polycritus and Diodorus Siculus also assert that the kings of Persia kept in their palace the produce of the tribute in ingots, coining but very little of it. Xerxes, according to Herodotus (book IX), left a considerable quantity of gold and silver, both in bars and money, with Mardonius, whom

he had commissioned to carry on the war in Greece; so that, from the time of Darius, a vast number of Darics, pieces of money which bore the figure of an archer on the reverse, were seen in that country, as we find from Plutarch, in his Apophthegmata Laconica."

There is no reason to suppose that the most ancient moneys referred to in the Old Testament were **coins.** As in China until the middle of the last century, so probably in the patriarchal times, pieces of gold and silver were weighed. Thus, when Abraham buys the field of Machpelah, we are informed of the proceedings in the bargain. Abraham says to Ephron, "I will give thee money for the field; take it of me—and I will bury my dead there;" and Ephron answers, "The land is worth four hundred shekels of silver—what is that between us?—take the place and bury thy dead. So Abraham **weighed** to Ephron the silver—four hundred of shekels of silver, as current among merchants."

There can be little doubt that payments in money by counting would soon follow the weighing of the precious metals, whose portableness and value made them the convenient instruments of barter or exchange. The natural process would be the employment of pieces of a similar weight to or [illegible] ame value; but if such [illegible] stamped evidence of [illegible]ing really of the value they represented, no payments would take place without the employment of scales, or some other instruments to be used as a security against fraud or error. It was quite natural that for the public benefit the stamping of the coin should be a function of the highest authorities; hence the right of coining would be assumed by sovereigns, by corporate bodies, or by influential persons, whose effigies, symbols, cipher, name or other device would obtain for the coin public appreciation and currency.

The official marks on these earliest of all coins consisted merely of the impress of the rude, unengraved punches, between which the ingot

Stater of Corinth, 625-585 B. C.

was placed to receive the blow of the hammer. Very soon, however, the art of the engraver was called in to adorn the lower of the two dies, that of the obverse, with the badge of the state or the symbol of the local divinity under whose auspices the currency was issued, the earliest mints having been, it is generally supposed, within the sacred precincts of a temple.

The Greek cities which studded the coasts and islands of Asia Minor soon adopted and improved upon this simple but none the less remarkable Lydian invention, and to the Greeks the credit is probably due of substituting engraved dies for the primitive punches, and certainly of inscribing them with the name of the people or ruler by whom the coin was issued.

The coins of the first four or five centuries of the art, so far as Greece and her immediate dependencies were concerned, hence present us with various stages from the one or more irregular hollows in place of the reverse, which may have been produced in the process of applying the die to a piece of metal fixed on a pointed surface, until these hollows became gradually replaced by the square, which is itself often found subdivided, and taking a radiated or star-like appearance.

The earliest coins are of an irregular globular form, having on one side

one or more irregular cavities or indentations. These appear to have been produced by rude projections rising above the surface upon which the piece of metal was laid; and these appear to have been the means by which it was firmly fixed, so as to enable the workman to stamp the upper side with the required symbol, which was evidently done by means of a hollow punch and a heavy hammer. After a time it was found that the desired impression might be produced without the metal being so firmly fixed; and thus we find the indentations gradually getting shallower, until at length a slightly indented square is all that remains. This, in turn, gradually gives place to the perfect reverse. At first this consists merely of a small figure, or figures, placed either in the center of teh square (as in an early coin of Syracuse), or in one or more of the divisions of the square, as in some of the coins of Ægina.

From the disappearance of the square the Greek coinage gradually improves in workmanship, until at length they present those beautiful specimens of workmanship which, although they may have been equaled, have certainly never been surpassed, even in modern times.

The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 71st monthly meeting of the above named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, December 3rd, President Virgil M. Brand presiding. The following 24 members were present: Messrs. Ripstra, Lewis, Mayer, J. T. Kelly, Bartholomay, Green, Verkler, Carey, W. F. Dunham, McDonald, V. M. Brand, Brenner, Simpson, Excell, Leon, Tuckerman, Michael, Hengle, Baker, Sorensen, Williams, Loer Smith and Krausz.

The committee on Medallic Production reported progress and showed lead proofs of the medal now being engraved, mentioning that the artist, Mr. J. H. Ripstra, had done a part of the engraving in the rooms of the Society last Tuesday evening and that a large number of the members had responded to the invitation to see some of the work done. The committee promised to have the medals finished and ready for distribution to members present at the next meeting. On motion the committee was instructed to have the reverse die for the 1909 membership medals cut, and a sufficient number struck for members elected during the year.

Messrs. Adolph Rau and Wm. A. Ashbrook were elected to membership.

The election of officers for 1910 resulted as follows: President, Harry F. Williams; Vice President, F. Elmo Simpson; Secretary, Ben G. Green; Treasurer, W. F. Dunham; Censor, F. M. Tuckerman; Librarian, E. C. Verkler; Curator, M. P. Carey. Executive Board: Virgil M. Brand, Ben G. Green and W. F. Dunham.

Mr. Baker read a paper on Greek Tetradrachms, illustrating by specimens. Mr. Baker showed his collection of Colonial bills.

Magazines received since last meting were: Numismatische Correspondenz, Philistine and Philatelic West, all for November. Auction catalogs were received from Egger Bros., Elder (2), Green and H. S. Rosenberg.

Mr. E. W. King was present as a visitor.

Adjourned to meet January 7th, 1910.

BEN G. GREEN, Secretary.

Coin Collecting—An Interesting Hobby

The numismatists of today are always interested in anything that may be expressed regarding our science by the members of the "Old Guard." The following is an excerpt taken from an article written by Mr. J. W. Scott. There is not another name which is so familiar to the coin collector, as well as the stamp collector, as is that of Mr. Scott, and the following excerpt should prove of interest to the general collector, more especially to the beginner:

"All coins are interesting, and very little care is required to secure a representative collection, be it confined to the issues of one country, the current coins of the world or specimens from all ages and nations. We have never met a person who failed to be interested when shown a coin of Alexander the Great (which by the way are quite common) or one of the early coins of his own country. A three-cent silver piece or a fifty-dollar California slug alike awakens the curiosity of the average man. Not one person in a hundred is aware that this country made half-cent pieces for fifty years or that nearly every nation in Europe still coins money of the value of one-fifth of our cent. Platinum, gold, electron, silver, copper, brass, bronze, nickel, lead, tin and iron have all been used for coinage at different times, and parchment, leather, wood, china, glass and shells have at various times been used as substitutes for real money. The size and shape is as diversified as the metal. Although most coins are circular in shape, we find some specimens oval, others oblong, square, bar shaped, octagonal, diamond, triangular, six-sided and irregular lumps, flat or thick, while the unique bullet money of Siam never fails to attract attention. The curious forms of the early Chinese money, which took the shapes of the implements of various trades, such as spade, razors, etc., deserve a page for their description. In size we find coins weighing only a few grains up to solid sheets weighing several pounds. We have taken our weights from the early Roman coinage, and now several European countries are making coins which can be used as weights. We have said enough to show that coins can be studied to much advantage, and that the most superficial inspection is always interesting."

COMMUNICATIONS.

A NEW MINT MARK VARIETY.

My dear Mr. Mehl:—

I beg to call your attention to a variety of the New Orleans Mint dime of 1905. The ordinary dime, as far as I can find out, has a large "O" mint-mark. The one that I have lately come across in circulation has a microscopic "O" of the same size as the "O" on the rare 1892 half-dollar. It is the first one with a small "O." as far as I have knowledge, that has been issued from the New Orleans mint in many years. Yours very truly,

HOWARD R. NEWCOMB.

The New York Numismatic Club

The second monthly meeting of the New York Numismatic Club, since its incorporation, took place at Keen's on the evening of Friday, December 10th, 1909.

President Higgins being confined to his home through illness, the chair was taken by Vice President Frey.

The following members were present: Wm. R. Weeks, Edgar H. Adams, Albert R. Frey, George H. Blake, Bauman L. Belden, Daniel R. Kennedy, Thomas L. Elder, Charles L. Podhaiski, Wayte Raymond, Stefan K. Nagy, A. G. Heaton, Joseph C. Mitchelson, D. Macon Webster, E. J. Deitsch, A. F. White and Edward T. Newell.

A report was presented by D. M. Webster, as attorney for the Club, stating that since last meeting the New York Numismatic Club had been incorporated under the law of the State of New York.

The Certificate of Incorporation, signed by the Secretary of State, and tastefully framed, was exhibited as an adornment of the Club meeting room.

The officers elected at the November meeting were confirmed by the Certificate of the Secretary of State.

The following members of the original Club were proposed and unanimously elected: Dr. T. Louis Comparette, Charles Gregory, E. Gilbert, J. W. Scott, Howland Wood, E. Hallenbeck, N. Vreeland, Henry Chapman, F. J. Liveright, Wm. S. Disbrow, Henry Russell Drowne, H. Ryder, T. A. Batterbury, E. J. Deitsch, Charles de Kay, E. T. Newell, A. F. White and Henri Weil.

A resolution by Mr. Bauman L. Belden was moved, seconded and passed that future applications for membership in the Club should be made in writing by the member proposing the applicant.

The thanks of the Club were tendered to Messrs. D. M. Webster and W. R. Weeks for legal services.

Mr. Adams moved that an Honorary Membership be adopted, eligibles to be determined by the Club.

Among the exhibits made was a "find" of the sixteen "follis" from Syria, being the first issue by the Eastern Emperor, Anastasius, Constantinople Mint. This exhibit was presented by Edward T. Newell.

Mr. Wayte Raymond exhibited an exquisite, perfectly centered sixteen litral piece of Queen Philistis of Syracuse, in the finest style of Greek numismatic art; also a fine and rare type of the Roman Republican triens.

Mr. Podhaiski exhibited a leaden plaque, said to be by Benvenuto Cellini, nine inches in diameter, and representing the embarcation of Noah; also a probably unique plaque or medal nine inches in diameter, cast from the metal of captured shells, representing on the obverse, Prussia lamenting the horrors of war and on the reverse, the return of Peace. Dated 1808.

I am pleased to correct an error inadvertently made in my last report. The Executive Committee of the New York Numismatic Club consists of Elliott Smith, D. Macon Webster and Thomas L. Elder. The Membership Committee is composed of E. H. Adams, W. H. Woodin and D. R. Kennedy.

DANIEL R. KENNEDY, Secretary.

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1881 Three-cent nickel. Brilliant proof. Very scarce..... .50

1855 Three cent, silver. Scarce. Very good ..... .50

1846 Dime. Very good. Rare date ..... .75

1824 Quarter. Very fair, near good. Rare 1.50

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The work was under the editorial supervision of Mr. Maurice L. Muhleman, the well known expert upon monetary subjects, and the coins were catalogued by Dr. T. Louis Comparette, curator of the Numismatic collection United States Mint, Philadelphia. The accuracy of its contents may be relied upon and will make it a standard reference work.

The book measures 8x11 inches.

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FEBRUARY, 1910

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B. MAX MEHL

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Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, FEBRUARY, 1910 No. 2

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contribution from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

U. S. SILVER DOLLAR 1804.
The "King of American Coins."
Record of $3,600.00

UNITED STATES COIN VALUES

A Short Sketch of United States Rarities, with Information for the Young Collector and Beginner

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By CHESTER F. DUNHAM.

To acquire a complete collection of United States coins is not so difficult as many suppose. A complete collection numbers only 1,229 specimens, representing a face value of $3,088.

The list includes every denomination issued by the government since the establishment of the first mint in 1793.

All dies of coins are made at the Philadelphia mint and each of the three branch mints receive dies upon which a minute O, S or D is engraved. So it is a mistaken idea that a complete collection must include specimens from every mint because the coins of the branch mints have a small extra letter or mint mark added.

The usual method of placing a value upon coins, is by the auction record established. A prominent numismatist estimated by the auction prices that a complete collection of United States coins would cost approximately $50,000.

The only difficulty is in finding a collector who is willing to part with his prizes. There are about two hundred coins in the U. S. series that deserve the title of rarity. There is one worth $3,600, two at over $2,000, one at $700, six at $350, two at $300, one at $250, seven at $200, four at $150, fourteen at $100, thirty at $75, twenty-at $50, and seventy-five at $25.

This list of 165 coins is worth about $20,000. Why mere pieces of metal are sold at such fabulous prices is a question that has puzzled many. There are about four reasons that will explain why certain coins are idolized and are priceless.

In many instances dealers while in speculative moods, advertise widely a particular coin. Gradually after the coin has become popular, the price steadily advances. When the stocks of the dealers become exhausted they pay more for the specimens and naturally charge more.

Collectors also create a demand for coins because they need the speci-

mens to fill out particular series. Thus we have artificially created and natural demands for coins.

The new wire edge twenty dollar gold piece of 1907 furnishes an excellent example of a speculative demand but the 1856 flying eagle cent illustrates a natural demand.

A coin is called a rarity because there are only a very limited number of the specimens in existence. For instance we are all familiar with the great rarity of the 1804 dollar. The mint records show there were over 19,000 dollars minted in 1804 but less than fifteen are now known.

Therefore it is not always the number coined that creates a rarity.

Shipwrecks, fires, accidents and especially misers always aid coins in attaining the tile of rarity. While accidents generally destroy specimens, the miser hoards them safely away until perhaps decades later, his ancestors accidentally discover the money in some secret apartment. Then of course the market is flooded with the coins and immediately the price is greatly lowered and the coins are no longer rarities.

The state of preservation that a coin is in to a great extent determines its numismatic value. It is undoubtedly the condition that makes a specimen desirable or otherwise.

The two highest states of preservation, proof and uncirculated, invariably create a worthy premium for coins. Any piece that is below the condition called 'good' is not worth having. "A coin of beauty is a joy to the numismatist forever."

Without the valuable study of the numismatic history attached to our coins what would they be to us save bright circular pieces of metal. The truth, the authenticity and the genuineness of coins are all established by their history. It is not worth while to know that the preceding owners of some of your treasures are royalty or distinguished personages? Do you not perceive the educational value their history brings, the wars they recall, and the events they commemorate. In a word, history converts an ignorant accumulator into a polished, educated numismatist.

The age of a coin when associated with the superb preservation always demands a substantial premium for a specimen and a very old coin in poor condition is worth practically face or bullion value.

The uninitiated public greatly bother the numismatist by deluging his mail with offers to sell coins that are very rare because the pieces are so "smooth and old."

The age of a coin generally coupled with the high premium that it brings owes the average person more than any other good attribute the coin may have.

The thrilling competition that has lately been manifesting itself in the numismatic world is caused by the tense excitement generally produced in the auction room. The average auction record of specimens is the guide that cautious collectors use in buying coins. In most instances the preceding record price (if not unduly inflated), is firmly established. The real numismatist considers last the face or intrinsic value of a rare specimen that he is about to purchase.

Numismatic writeups probably serve to enhance the interest and value of coins. It is the best form of advertising and making a coin popular.

Just as we are going to press with this issue, about 90 per cent. of the subscriptions that have expired with the December number have already been renewed. If your subscription expires, and if you want to make sure that you have and will receive your 50c worth, just kindly place together the twelve numbers of 1909. We are sure that you will agree with us that this is one time where in offering this magazine at fifty cents per year—the word "bargain" has not been severely abused.

Ye Olde Mint

BY FRANK H. STEWART.

(Continued from Page 9.)

Copyright, 1909, by Frank H. Stewart.

The United States of America on January 12, 1836, by deed reciting Act of Congress under date of May 1, 1830, transferred the mint grounds and buildings to Michael Kates, bell hanger, for $8,100, he having been the highest bidder at public sale. In this deed the 14-foot alley was called Sugar Alley and the ground rent again noted.

Andrew Jackson, President of the United States of America, signed this deed and the great seal of the United States of America was attached. John Forsyth, Secretary of State, witnessed the President's signature.

On February 18, 1836, Francis Hopkinson, Clerk of the District and Circuit Courts of the United States of America for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, appeared before John Swift, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, and on his oath said he was acquainted with the signatures of both Jackson and Forsyth and was satisfied they were their own and proper signatures.

The neighborhood of the old mint is rich in traditions regarding it, and it may happen that when the buildings are torn down some of them will be substantiated.

During the War of 1812 Dr. R. M. Patterson, Adam Eckfelt and Joseph Cloud, respectively director of the mint, chief coiner, melter and refiner, were engaged at the Breast Works at Grays Ferry, and, as these gentlemen were the chief employees of the mint at the time, it is highly probable there was considerable alarm over the safety of the mint. The actions of the British at Washington showed their tendency towards destruction of government property.

An old lady living in West Philadelphia has the original appointment of her ancestor, Joseph Cloud, to his position in the mint, signed by Washington. She would not even allow it to be photographed for fear something might happen to it while in the photographer's hands.

Biddle's Directory of 1791 gives the address of Michael Shubart, distiller, as 29 North Seventh Street; Hardie's 1703 directory gives the mint at 29 North Seventh street, which indicates that a change of numbers in the mint property has been made since that time. Shubart was a prominent Philadelphian; during the Revolution he was a city assessor, and on one occasion took an unconditional oath while his colleagues made a reservation. In the elaborate pageant of July 4, 1788, he bore the Standard at the head of the distillery section, followed by other notables engaged in the business.

Daniel Robertdeau, mentioned elsewhere as an owner of part of the mint grounds, at one time was a brigadier-general of militia, and his name appears frequently in the Revolutionary Annals of Philadelphia as a man of pronounced ideas and stern character.

The beginning of the mint establishment may be traced back to the articles of Confederation, dated July 9, 1778, which contained the following: "The United States in Congress assembled shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating the alloy and value of coin struck by their own authority or by that of the respective States."

The Constitution of the United States, September 17, 1787, contains in Article 1, Section 8: "The Congress shall have power to coin money, regu-

late the value thereof and of foreign coins;" and further, "No State shall coin money, emit bills of credit, make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts."

Analysis of the above will show the reason why the various States discontinued their own coinage.

The continental Congress, January 7, 1782, instructed Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution, to prepare and report a table of rates at which the different species of foreign coins most likely to circulate with the United States should be received at the treasury. On January 15th, the week following, he made a lengthy report regarding the different names and values of coins then in use and the necessity of a legal tender. He stated that the necessary machinery for a mint could easily be made and that the advantage of possessing legal money in preference to any other would induce people to carry foreign money to the mint until a sufficiency were struck for the circulating medium, and the remainder of foreign gold and silver coins should be left entirely to the operations of commerce as bullion.

On April 14, 1790, Thomas Jefferson reported to the House of Representatives, advising the declination of the proposition of John H. Mitchell, regarding his offer to furnish coins from Europe at a fixed price per pound for copper coins. His objections were that the opportunity of recoinage of coins would be lost, and that in transportation across the ocean it would be subject to the dangers of the sea, acts of piracy, and, in times of war, would offer the sinews of war to the enterprise of the enemy, and further, that the resources of coming household place would be lost. The risk of counterfeiting was also noted.

Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, on January 28, 1791, as a result of instructions on the part of the House of Representatives on April 15, 1790, sent a lengthy communication to it on "The Establishment of a Mint." This communication was evidently the basis for the act of Congress, dated April 2, 1792, establishing the mint and regulating the coins of the United States.

The mint was to be situated at the seat of government, then Philadelphia, and the President, in addition to the authority given him under the Act of March 3,1791, was authorized to cause to be provided and put in proper condition such buildings as appeared to him to be necessary for carrying on the business of the mint.

The Act of March 3, 1791, approved by President Washington, authorized the establishment of a mint under such regulations as should be directed by law. This Act authorized him to cause to be engaged artists and the procurement of the necessary apparatus.

On December 30, 1703, Jefferson wrote the President regarding artists. He mentioned that a certain Drotz had been hired, but, after considerable delay refused to come to America and that our minister at London had succeeded in getting Mr. Albion Cox, who was probably the person of that name who had the right to make copper coins for the State of New Jersey in 1786, to accept the position as assayer. Inasmuch as it was impossible to secure abroad a chief coiner of greater ability than at home, Mr. Henry Voight, who was temporarily in the position, was favorably mentioned.

These two men were required to furnish security in the sum of ten thousand dollars each, which neither was able to do, and Jefferson stated that the coinage of precious metals was prevented for some time past, but [illegible] order that the mint might not be entirely idle the coinage of copper [illegible]

VAULT WITH .. A VAULT

BASEMENT OF COINAGE BUILDING THE "BURGLAR PROOF" OF 1792

going on. Jefferson recommended that their securities be lessened by reducing the responsibilities.

October 28, 1794, David Rittenhouse, director of the mint, reported that it had been necessary to purchase an adidtional lot of ground, that nearly one million cents had been coined and a beginning made in the coinage of precious metals, that nearly 120,000 ounces of bullion had been deposited for coinage and that a large parcel of blank dollars was ready for coining as soon as a more powerful press could be finished.

February 8, 1795, Mr. Boudinot, one of the Congressional Committee, appointed to examine and report on the state of the mint, made a long report on the duties and work of the various employees.

At that time, besides the biuldings at 37 and 39 North Seventh street, now belonging to the Frank H. Stewart Electric Company, a lease was held on one in the "Northern Liberties" for five years at the rent of five shillings per annum, a very trifling sum indeed.

There was mode or less criticism about the conduct of the mint which Mr. Boudinot explained was due to trouble in getting competent workmen, proper materials and strong apparatus. He reported the lots for the building were too small and that this hindered the operations; and, further, that the frequent breaking of dies, which were all made in the mint, caused numerous delays. Up to September, 1794, the lands purchased had cost $4,266.00; buildings, apparatus, machines, etc., $22,720.45; copper, $155,815.51; salaries, $15,501.09; a grand total of $58,394.61, which he considered a very great amount. He remarked that a great saving could be made if the machinery could be operated by water or steam instead of manual labor or that of horses. He noted that in case the projected canal between the Schuylkill and Delaware should be accomplished the heavy expense of the mint would be greatly reduced.

His report, among other things, showed that when the bullion was not in use it was kept under locks, the keys of which were kept by the assayer and chief coiner. This was for the time it was in the custody of the chief coiner. That part not in his custody was in the vaults of the mint, also secured under two locks, keys of which were kept by the treasurer and assayer. Mention is made elsewhere regarding these vaults. He recommended a reduction in the size of the copper cent and a change in the standard for silver coins to ten parts silver and one part copper.

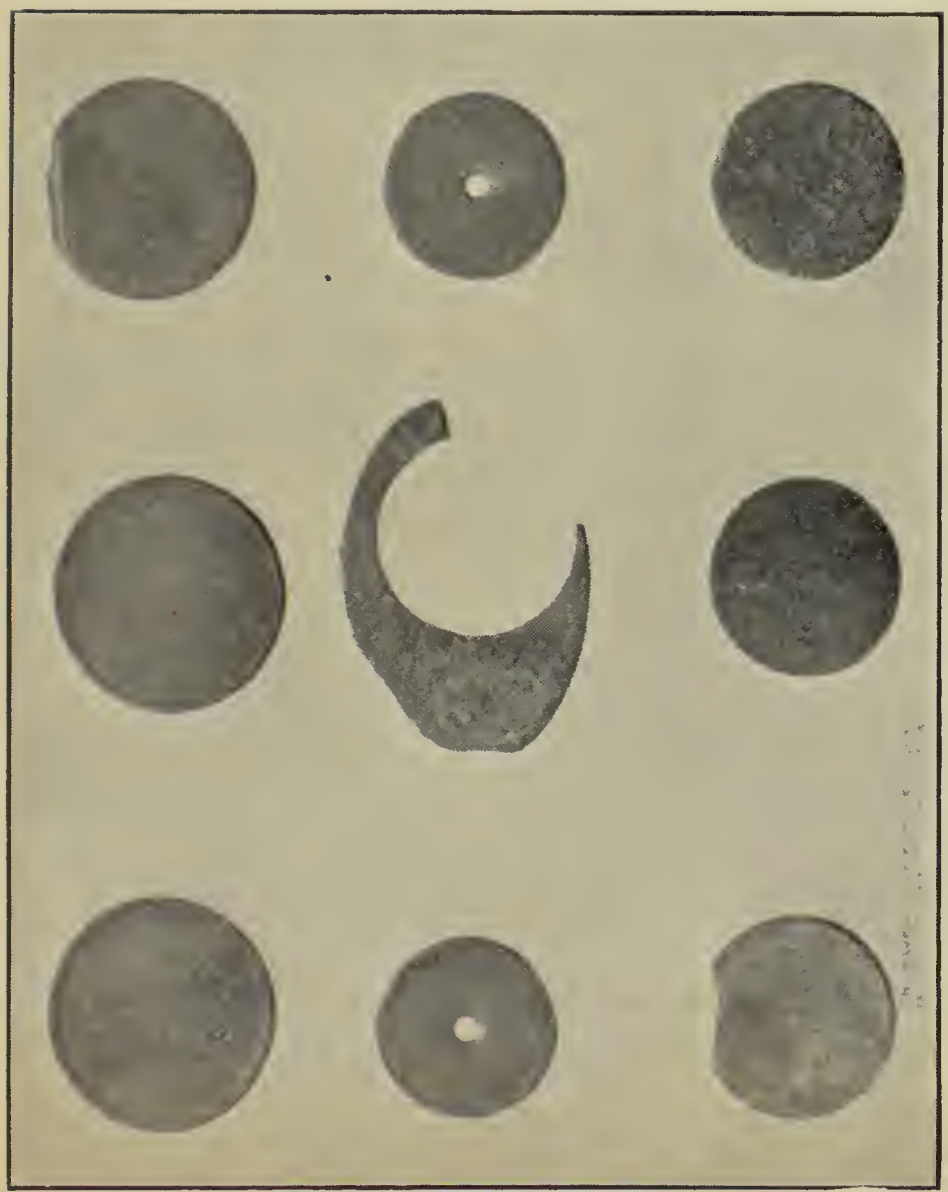
Henry William DeSaussure in a letter, dated the mint office, October 27, 1795, to the President of the United States, George Washington, apologized for the length of his communication and said he was prepared to deliver the direction of the mint to his successor.

He stated the coinage of gold had begun under his administration. He deemed it proper to state there was no copper in the mint fit for coining and that the price of copper had advanced, and suggested the desirability of reducing the weight of the cent and thereby help in preventing its use by coppersmiths.

He mentioned the important fact that the standard of the silver coin in use at the mint differed from the standard fixed by law. He thought that either the law should be changed or the standard used according to law.

He suggested the desirability of having laws made to close up certain establishments making debased foreign coins and thereby curtailing the supply of gold bullion and degrading our national character.

He referred to an attempt on the mint dies and implements with nefarious views.



Planchets for Copper Cents, Half Cents and Silver Centre Cents, also piece of scrap copper from which a Half Cent was struck, all found while excavations were being made for new building, 631 Filbert Street. Size 15/16 of originals.

Elias Boudinot, in a letter dater at the mint, December 3, 1795, referred to the sudden death of Assayer Mr. Albion Coxe on the preceding Friday and said, "until this officer is replaced the business of the mint would be confined to striking cents only." In the same letter he recommended, among other things, "that some proper person be authorized to purchase on public account all small quantities of silver and gold brought to the mint, at the best market price, to be coined for the public treasury."

Elias Boudinot, in a very able letter to the President, dated at the mint, November 29, 1796, told how impossible it was to run the mint with business-like dispatch, hampered as it was by unreasonable restrictions. He pointed out how in one case a depositor of bullion below standard got 500 pounds sterling more than he should and still was within his legal rights. In other words, it cost the mint that much to refine the bullion for which it received no compensation. He also pointed out how expensive it was to coin bullion in rotation so that each depositor got his money in turn. In this way it was just as expensive to melt and refine 20 ounces as 1,000 ounces and he recommended a fund for the mint to be used in paying off small depositors of bullion and thus be able to melt and refine in larger quantities.

February 13, 1797, Mr. Havens, of the committee to examine and report on Mr. Boudinot's letter, made his report to Congress and recommended the sum of $2,820.71 be appropriated to make good the deficiency caused by wastage in coining gold and silver since the commencement of the coinage of these metals. The report was subsequently a confirmation of the statements made by Mr. Boudinot.

May 19, 1798, recommendation of allowance to John Vaughan was made because silver bullion, to the extent of 230,888 ounces, deposited by him was of greater fineness than that regularly used in coinage.

During the latter part of 1797 it became very apparent that the out-put of the mint was not sufficient for the needs of the country, and foreign coins were necessarily continued as legal tender despite legislation to the contrary.

Elias Boudinot, in a letter from the mint to the President, dated January 3, 1799, mentioned that during the previous summer a scheme for robbing the mint was discovered. One of the persons in the mint was in collusion with outside parties. The offenders were detected, prosecuted and punished.

January 8, 1800, Boudinot reported to President Adams and called his attention to the fact that fifty thousand one hundred and eleven dollars and forty-two cents ($50,111.42) of cents, had been coined and that it was necessary for the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States to comply with provisions of law of May 8, 1792, by giving the public notice therein mentioned.

Also brought up the point that the mint was not at the seat of government, which had been moved to Washington, and if mint was to be removed steps should be taken immediately regarding it.

Also called attention to workmen in gold and silver melting down coins for commercial purposes to the loss of the United States.

Mr. Hillhouse, of the committee to whom was referred the report of the director of the mint to the President of the United States, on January 8, 1800, recommended, on March 18,1800, that a committee be appointed to bring in a bill for repealing the first section of the Act entitled, "An Act establishing a mint and regulating the coins of the United States . . . . ." dated April 21, 1792, and such other sections and parts of sections of said Act as relate to the establishment of the mint, and to provide for taking care of the materials and property appertaining to the mint and which belong to the United States; and, further, that the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to report

a plan for furnishing the United States with cents and half-cents as shall be deemed necessary or expedient.

February 13, 1801, Elias Boudinot advised the President that the Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasurey, Comptroller of the Treasury, the Chief Justice and Attorney General were not present on the day specified by law to assay reserved pieces of coins, and that the depositors complained of their being deprived of their reserved money, and that the check on coinage contemplated by law was frustrated. Also mentioned that the act of July 16, 1790, provided for removal of all offices attached to the seat of government to the District of Columbia on the first Monday in December, 1800. Called attention to Act of last session of Congress locating mint in Philadelphia until March 4th next.

He, on February 27, 1802, in a communication to the Secretary of the Treasury, called attention to outstanding contracts for copper abroad which were obligatory, and the difficulty attending the securing of copper in the past. Questioned the scheme of importing coined copper cents because of a chance of a flood of lightweight cents contrary to law, and suggested that the government would have greater security by placing contract in United States.

On March 4, 1802, Robert Scott, engraver at the mint, wrote the Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin, calling attention to the probability of abolishment of the mint, explained the sacrifices he had made and desired to be invested with the exclusive privilege, according to law, of furnishing cents of the regular weight and quality free of all expense to the government at the face value.

In a letter dated March 22, 1802, Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, Boudinot, wrote the Secretary of Treasury, giving an inventory of the real and personal property of the mint, as follows:

"Two lots on Seventh street between Market and Arch, 20 feet each on Seventh street and extending back 100 feet, with a dwelling house on the north lot and a shell of a house on the south lot, which last widens on the rear to about 60 feet on which the stable stands. These lots pay a ground rent of $27.50 per annum.

"A lot on Sugar Alley at the rear of the above, 20 feet front on the alley and about 100 feet deep.

"A frame building improved for a large furnace in the commons at the north end of Sixth Street, of little value, the ground being merely loaned to us.

"Personal estate—copper planchets on hand, 22 tons.

"Three horses, good for little but for use of mint.

"Machinery of mint no value except for mint.

"Five striking presses.

"Three cutting presses.

"One milling machine.

"Five pairs rollers, great and small.

"One drawing machine.

"Three pairs smith's bellows.

"Set blacksmith's tools.

"Large number of hubs and dies.

"Carpenter's tools.

"Seven stoves.

"One turning lathe.

"Six scale beams, scales and weights.

"Two sets scales and sundry adjusting scales.

"Furniture in clerk's room.

"Various implements used in the several departments.

"About 2,000 bushels of charcoal.

"Engravers' tools, pots, bottles, etc.

"An old horse cart and gears.

"About 2,000 fire brick.

"Considerable quantity of old iron.

Stated machinery was in poor repair and should be moved by steam instead of horses. Said lots were too small and was greatly cramped for room.

Said lots were then very valuable, being in the heart of the city. In his opinion the necessary coins of the government could not be protected at much less expense than the mint cost.

In this inventory no mention was made of the building used by the coinage department, and which, no doubt, was the best and most important building then on the lots. The sizes of the lots given are inaccurate, and the idea evidently intended to be conveyed was that there was very little of value in building or equipment.

In 1893 the salaries of the mint employees were as follows:

David Rittenhouse, director, $2,000 per annum.

Tristram Dalton, treasurer, $1,200 per annum.

Henry Voight, coiner, $1,500 per annum.

Isaac Hugh, clerk, $312 per annum.

The regular coinage of copper began in 1793; silver in 1794, and gold in 1795.

The following curious extracts are taken from the mint rules and regulations, dated January 1, 1825:

"The allowance under the name of drink money is hereafter to be discontinued.

"The operations of the mint throughout the year are to commence at 5 o'clock in the morning.

"Christmas Day and the Fourth of July—and no other days—are established holidays at the mint.

"He (watchman) will keep in a proper arm chest, securely locked, a musket and bayonet, two pistols and a sword. The arms are to be kept in perfect order and to be inspected by an officer once a month, when the arms are to be discharged and charged anew.

"The watchman of the mint must attend from 6 o'clock in the evening to 5 o'clock in the morning—and until relieved by the permission of an officer, or until the arrival of the doorkeeper. He will ring the yard bell precisely every hour by the mint clock from 10 o'clock until relieved by the doorkeeper, or an officer, of the workmen on working days, and will send the watch-dog through the yard immediately after ringing the bell."

The operations at the mint were suspended at different times because of yellow fever epidemics, and this, in connection with the scarcity of metal, and a fire at the mint and the use of coins for purely commercial purposes by coppersmiths, silversmiths and other tradesmen, accounts for the scarcity of certain coins made at "Ye Olde Mint," under great disadvantages, when men and horses did the work now done by electricity.

Copy of Letter Regarding Purchase of First U. S. Mint Lots.

Dear Sir: June 9, 1792.

I am in sentiment with you and the Director of the Mint, respecting the purchase of the lots and houses which are offered for sale, in preference to renting—as the latter will certainly exceed the interest on the former.

That all the applications may be brought to view, and considered for coining,

&c., Mr. Lear will lay the letters and engravings before you, to be shown to the Director of the Mint. I have no other object or wish in doing it, than to obtain the best. Yours, &c.,

Go WASHINGTON.

MR. JEFFERSON.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Yokohama, Japan, December 31, 1909.

The Editor,
"Mehl's Numismatic Monthly."

Dear Sir:

In the "Numismatic Monthly" corresponding to the present month there appears an article "Twentieth Century Chinese Cash," in which we have noticed several inaccuracies in translation.

As we lately supplied the J. W. Scott Co., who we believe were the originators of this composition, with a representative collection of these Provincial copper plates, we take more than a passing interest in the matter, which will be understood when we mention that each coin supplied by us had the necessary information attached, but in no way did we advance any other data which could be used for the body of this article, as might be so construed, when the class of error is taken into consideration.

As is well known, while most Chinese characters, due to their being also used in Japanese, are more or less understood by all fairly educated natives of the Island Empire, the pronunciation is perfectly different.

There is no doubt that the writer of this article procured the help of some Japanese (certainly not a Numismatic student) to aid him in interpreting the Chinese inscriptions, as the following principal mis-transliterations will clearly show:

(a) The name of the reign (光緒) is given as "Ko Cho," which is the JAPANESE pronounciation for these two characters, while the CHINESE pronounciation, and correct one in this case, since it has reference to coins of the Celestial Empire, is "Kwon Shu," similar to the Soo-Chow coin No. 19, which is here correctly pronounced.

(b) The translation of the value inscription is given as "To ten Mon equal each piece," which is hardly proper since "Mon" is the pronounciation of the ancient JAPANESE monetary unit, while in CHINESE it is "Wen," (文) or "cash," the smallest coin used in China.

Knowing the love for accuracy aimed at and usually attained in your Monthly, we beg to place the above correct translations at your service.

Your obedient servants,

JUN KOBAYAGAWA CO.,
Per H. A. Ramsden, Foreign Manager.

A CORRECTION.

It was our fondest desire to begin the New Year eliminating all necessity for "corrections," but in our haste to overcome the delay of the January issue caused by the usual Holiday rush, the descriptions to the plates of the "Ye Olde Mint" were inadvertently placed under the wrong plates. The discription under the plate on page 6 should have been under the plate on page 7 and vica versa

The New York Numismatic Club

In spite of extremely inclement weather, the third regular monthly meeting of the New York Numismatic Club, adjourned from the preceding Friday in order to entertain the numerous out-of-town visitors to the Steigerwalt sale, was held at Keen's on Tuesday evening, January 18th.

Mr. Charles G. Steigerwalt and Rev. H. Montanar were the guests of the President. President Higgins presided and the following members were present: Edgar H. Adams, Stefan K. Nagy, D. R. Kennedy, D. Macon Webster, Wayte Raymond, Jos. C. Mitchelson, Elmer S. Sears, Albert R. Frey, D. Proskey, Edward T. Newell, S. Hudson Chapman, Rudolf Kohler, J. E. Roine, E. Weil, H. Weil, J. Keppel Hopkins, H. B. Harmer.

Messrs. C. G. Steigerwalt of Lancaster, Pa., and H. B. Harmer of Philadelphia were elected members, the by-laws being suspended in their case.

Such routine business as the officers had to report was disposed of. It was voted, on motion of Mr. Webster, that the President and Secretary be empowered to call a special meeting of the club whenever in their judgment it might be deemed necessary.

This action was taken in view of the objection of many members to any apparent connection between the meetings of the club and coin sales occurring on the same day, and the legal requirement of meeting on the statutory days unless formally adjourned. By such liberty of action the President is now able to adjust days of meeting to circumstances as they arise.

President Higgins read a letter of thanks from Rear Admiral Robley D Evans for the Evans Family Medal resented in behalf of the club ,and one from President J. M. Henderson of the American Numismatic Association extending cordial New Years greetings to the club and its members.

On motion of President Higgins the club voted a return of the compliment and felicitations to the new President of the A. N. A., and instructed the Secretary to notify him of same.

The President exhibited an antique Chinese plaque of the tenth century A. D., which had been affixed to a memorial of to the Sung dynasty founder, Tai-Tsou, by his brother, the Emperor Tai-Tsoung, in the year 975, and read a description of the plaque, together with the historical details and his own translation from the ancient "Seal" characters of the plaque.

S. Hudson Chapman exhibited the most beautiful known example of the Lord Baltimore Maryland sixpence, which was formerly in the Parmlee collection, but has been in Mr. Chapman's possession for many years. Also a Greek silver drachm of King Mausoleus of Mysia, in Asia Minor, representing the finest period of Greek art. It was from the splendid tomb erected by this monarch to his queen that we derive our word "Mausoleum."

Mr. Chapman also showed a vere rare "mite" of Herod the Ethnarch, men-

tioned in the New Testament. Other rare Greek coins exhibited by Mr. Chapman were a silver tetradrachm of Cnossos, Crete, with a fine, sharply struck "Labyrinth" and a gold Stater of Pantacapeum with head of Pan and Griffon reverse, both in exceptional condition.

Edgar H. Adams exhibited two rare pattern Crowns, one of George III of England, by Pistrucci, and one of Victoria by Wyon; also a very fine specimen of the Oxford silver "Half-Pound" of Charles I, dated 1642.

David Proskey showed several unpublished hemi-drachms of Rhodes bearing symbols in addition to the well known Rose type.

Stefan K. Nagy exhibited an exceptionally fine pattern Crown of King George III, by the elder Wyon.

DANIEL R. KENNEDY, Secretary.

The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 72nd monthly meeting of the above named society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, President Virgil M. Brand in the chair. The following twenty-one members were present: Messrs. Ripstra, Mayer, Ba-r tholomay, Green, Verkler, Carey, W. F. Dunham, V. M. Brand, Simpson, Leon, Tuckerman, Bieger, Huber, Holmes, Baker, Sorensen, Williams, Loer, Krauss, Rau and Dr. Merrill.

Reports of the retiring officers were read and accepted. On motion the names of delinquent members were read, and seven names were dropped from membership for non-payment of dues. On motion it was decided that members in arrears would not be given medals until their dues were paid.

The following officers were installed for the year 1910:

President—Harry F. Williams.

Vice President—F. Elmo Simpson.

Secretary—Ben G. Green.

Treasurer—W. F. Dunham.

Censor—F. M. Tuckerman.

Librarian—E. C. Verkler.

Curator—M. P. Carey.

Executive Committee—Virgil M. Brand, Ben G. Green, W. F. Dunham.

A unanimous vote of thanks was given retiring President Virgil M. Brand. After a brief statement by Mr. Verkler, Chairman of the Committee on Medallic Production, the Society's medals representing the gunboat Nashville were distributed to members present. It was decided that extra copies of the bronze medals should be sold for 75 each, and the silver medals at $2.50 each. A copy of the former is to be presented to the Chicago Historical Society and one of the latter to the Commander of the Nashville. Membership medals for 1909 were distributed to members elected during the past year. The Secretary was directed to send copies of this medal to the American Numismatic Society of New York and the Chicago Historical Society. It was ordered that the reverse die of the membership medal be cancelled.

The President appointed on the Committee on Medallic Production Messrs. E. C. Verkler, F. M. Tuckerman and J. B. Holmes; and as the Membership Committee, Messrs. C. Sorensen, I. Excell and Mitchell Baker.

Two specimens were received from Mr. Lyman H. Low for the Society's cabinet. The Curator reported several acquisitions and money donations for the cabinet. Minor proof sets for 1909 from the Philadelphia Mint and San Francisco cents and silver coins for 1909 were supplied to members at cost by Mr. Virgil M. Brand.

Under exhibitions, Mr. Leon showed a ten dollar gold piece of the Miners' Bank, and Mr. Brand a gold stater of Pontacaphaeum; a silver medallion of Constantine II; a 50 stivers of Louis Napoleon, 1807, in gold; a Rosa Americana 2 pence, 1724; an aes of Olba; a quadruple ducat of Austria, 1909, and a 2 rupee of India.

Magazines received since last report were the Numismatist and Philatelic West for December, and three auction catalogues from Adolph Hess.

The treasurer's report showed all obligations met for the past year and a balance in the treasury.

Adjourned to meet February 4th, 1910.

BEN G. GREEN, Secretary.

The American Numismatic Association

Its Most Successful Year and Encouraging Future.

The interesting report of General Secretary Duffield as published in the January number of the "Numismatist," should prove of great interest to all members of the A. N. A.

From its carefully prepared report, it may be readily noted that the association is now "bigger and better" than ever before, and that 1909 was the most successful year in the history of the Association. No less than 193 new members—a "new record"—were admitted during the year. Credit is due to Mr. Zerbe for thirty-one of the new members that were due to his efforts. Messrs. Tremblay and Breton have twenty-five new members to their credit; Dr. J. M. Henderson, twelve, and Mr. J. de Lagerberg, eleven; while twelve other members are credited with from three to five members, bringing the total to 663, with members in nearly every state in the Union and provinces in Canada and several foreign countries.

Changes in the administration work were made, important offices created, and in all everything which has been done by the outgoing administration and that is being contemplated by the incoming administration, and as is evidenced by President Henderson's interesting, business-like message, tend to show that the American Numismatic Association is assured of a healthy growth and successful year, both in membership and influence, and which is no less the sincere wish of Mehl's Numismatic Monthly.

SILVER.

Its Influence Upon the Advance of Civilization.

Silver has had more to do with the advance of civilization than gold, in that, historically, it, and not gold, has been the money of commerce. The trade of the orient in earliest times was done on a silver basis, and silver is still the medium of exchange in China and India, and indeed throughout Asia. Asia has always been looking for silver, Europe for tin, which with copper made that warlike alloy, bronze. Malaysia has always been a tin producer, as the countries bordering the Mediterranean, and notably Greece and Spain, have always been silver producers. Through the exchange of these metals, East and West became acquainted. When the price of tin was raised, Alexander invaded India in the hope of reaching and conquering the sources of supply.

After the discovery of America, up to the beginning of the last century, almost all of the world's silver came from Mexico and the west coast of South America. For this period the production was about 200,000 tons, worth about six billion dollars. The metal was discovered in the United States in 1859, in Nevada, and our total production has been about 170,000 tons. The present annual output of the world is nearly 6,000 tons. Of this four-fifths comes from the western hemisphere—1,900 tons from the United States.

As of old, Asia is still the chief market for silver. It takes from 2,500 to 3,000 tons every year to maintain trade with those three backward races of the East, the Hindus, the Chinese and the Malays. Economists call Asia "the sink of silver." For the last 300 years an average of 600 tons of white metal has been sent each year to the nations of the East. It never comes back. It circulates there as money or disappears as hoards of coin and ornaments. Aside from this use, nearly 500 tons are consumed by the world every year in manufacture and the arts, that which goes into photography and chemistry being irretrievably lost. Perhaps 5,000 tons are devoted to coinage, of which 50 per cent goes to Asia.

Unlike gold, silver never occurs in pure metallic form. It is found almost always associated with other metals, and indeed, as mining is now conducted, may be called a by-product. One-third is produced in connection with lead ores, one-fourth in connection with copper ores, one-fourth in connection with gold. This was not known in the early days of South American mining, and the silver coins of that time contained from 2 to 5 per cent of gold. Theodore F. Van Wagenen, from whose interesting article in the "Popular Science Monthly" we take the foregoing facts, believes that if any quantity of these coins "could be now bought up at the commodity price of silver, it would be a most profitable operation to separate the associated gold." Indeed, it might be figured out that a silver dollar of that period, which would now command about 50 cents fo rits silver content, would be raised nearly to par through its gold by-product.—N. Y. Sun.

THE NEW AUSTRALIAN COINAGE.

Sir John Forrest, the Commonwealth Treasurer, has received a cable message announcing that the King has approved the designs for the new Australian silver coinage. The obverse is to show his majesty's head, with the usual Latin inscription, and the reverse will display the Australian coat of arms, with denomination and date. It is expected that these new silver coins will be in circulation early in the new year. The first issue will be a million florins, a million shillings, a million sixpences, and ten millions of threepenny-bits.

J. A. F.

A NUMISMATIC MISSIONARY.

The following is an excerpt of the Wooster Daily Republican, of January 10th, from which may be noted that Mr. Schwartz can readily lay claim as "chief booster" of the A. N. A.

George J. Schwartz, who is president of the State Association of Numismatics, gave a very excellent talk to the members of the High School in the auditorium this morning. He had brought specimens with him which made his lecture all the more interesting. Mr. Schwartz has a very large and valuable collection of specimens, which he has been gathering for twenty years, there is probably near a thousand specimens which he values very highly.

Mr. Schwartz's talk was along the line of coin collection, and with the aid of his specimens he was able to make many points that were highly interesting to the students. The development in the use of coins in ages long ago was traced down to the present day, coins of many nations being shown. The address showed a great deal of care and thought in preparation, and was greatly appreciated by Mr. Schwartz's hearers.

This is just the sort of effort that should be greatly appreciated by not only A. N. A. members, but all who are interested in the science of Numismatics. In creating new collectors, a larger demand for coins is thereby created and of course the present value of collections greatly enhanced.

WARNING TO DEALERS AND COLLECTORS.

Though we have had at various times some trouble with collectors, we have always refrained from publishing same in the Numismatic Monthly, but for the protection of collectors and dealers, we are obliged to publish the following parties, from all of whom we have been unable to obtain payment for coins they purchased: C. W. Franklin, Pittsburg, Pa.; Oswell Peartree, Philadelburg, Pa.; John A. Seltzer, Lebanon, Pa., and Chas. A. Powell, Richmond, Va. We would be pleased to hear from any other parties who have had any dealings with these "worthies."

There are a few cranks who seem to take delight in annoying auction cataloguers. They bid in lots, and after retaining them for some length of time, for purposes best known to them, either endeavor to obtain a discount or return the lots Among this class of cranks is one Ab. Atlas Leve of Syracuse, N. Y. His unsatisfactory as well as unreasonable dealings have not been few, but his recent dealings were so void of any respectable consideration that we feel it our duty to inform other dealers and collectors of his unfair dealings.

In the November sale held by B. Max Mehl he bid in two lots. The sale was held on the 22nd, and on December 10th he writes that he is not entirely satisfied with the lots and may be obliged to return them. And then, in reply to a letter that the lots were as catalogued and that their return could not be considered, he writes, promising to make returns by the first of January. But on the 3rd of January he returned only ONE lot, stating that he would not accept it, and further states that he does not owe anything to the cataloguer, ignoring entirely the amount of the other lot. But remitting the amount for the other lot after forcing another request for it. And now we note that he advertises in the January "Numismatist" a coin from "Mehl's Sale," and this is the same coin that he returned as unsatisfactory after retaining it more than thirty days. This is only one of his several unsatisfactory dealings, records of which we have in our possession.

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The work was under the editorial supervision of Mr. Maurice L. Muhleman, the well-known expert upon monetary subjects, and the coins were catalogued by Dr. T. Louis Comparette, curator of the Numismatic collection United States Mint, Philadelphia. The accuracy of its contents may be relied upon and will make it a standard reference work.

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PRICE, $10.00.

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B. MAX MEHL

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Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, MARCH, 1910 No. 3

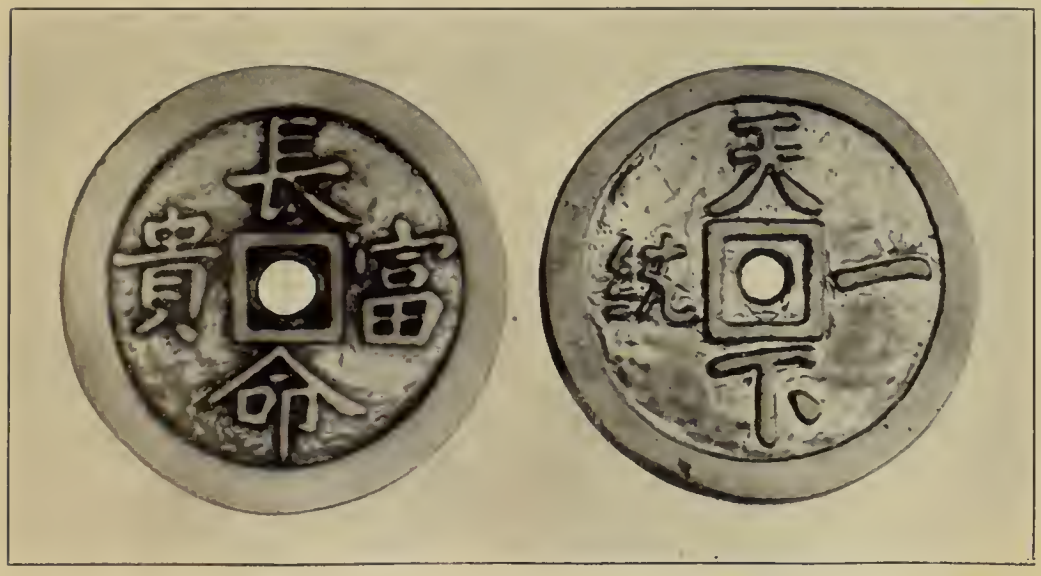
Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

GLASS COINS OF THE FAR EAST

Written for NUMISMATIC MONTHLY
By H. A. RAMSDEN, F. R. N. S.

While the Siamese Porcelain Tokens, among which a few coloured glass varieties exist, are known to most Numismatists, and even the Arabian glass weights may have been investigated by a few collectors, the Glass Coins of China and neighboring countries, on the other hand, may be new to many of our readers.

It is not necessary, in order to learn about these curious coins, to wade through the numerous native treatises on Far Eastern Numismatics, since no mention whatever is made in them of any porcelain or glass coins. As these coins do not come within the scope of "Articles of Metal," among which the ordinary coins are included, so dearly loved by Chinese and Japanese connoiseurs, they do not find a place in books on this subject.



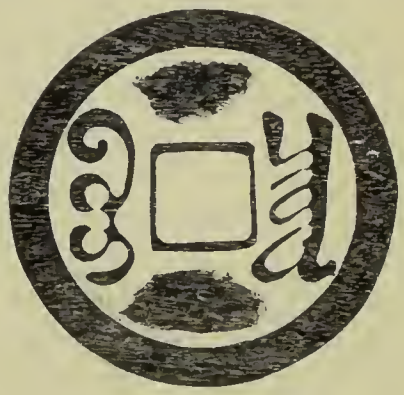
No. 1 No. 2

From Professor F. Hirth's monograph on "China and the Roman Orient," we gather that, although the Chinese became well acquainted with glass about the time of the Christian Era, there is no doubt that it was not until the fifth century after Christ that they learned how to make it(brought by the sea route from the Roman Empire) and consequently no glass coins bearing Chinese inscriptions can have been made in China prior to this period.

The little that has so far been published about porcelain and glass coins

of the Far East is due entirely to the pens of Europeans. The first mention of coins of materials other than the well known metals, is probably that recorded in Vol. VIII of the "Chinese Review," where an article signed "B. G." describes two specimens of earthenware coins, procured at Canton, with inscriptions in Chinese Seal characters, both incused and in relief, with the value of the half tael, an imitation of that well known Pan Liang series of Chinese ancient round copper coins.

No. 3



No. 4

The late Stephen W. Bushell, in Vol. II of "Chinese Art," illustrates and describes three glass medallions in coloured glass with truly felicitous inscriptions which he translates as follows:

(a) "A succession of first places at the three examinations."

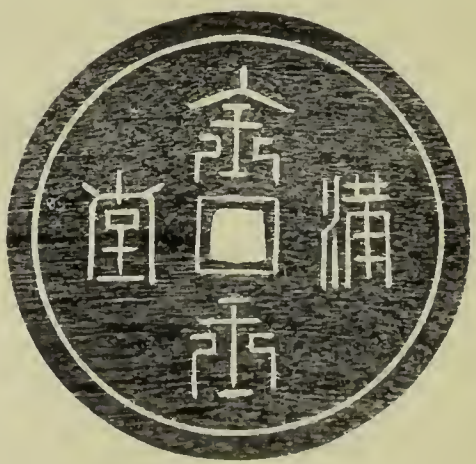
(b) "May the Celestial Mandarins be propitious to man."

(c) "May the Celestial Divinities send sons."

These charms are similar in every respect to those treated in this article.

All the glass specimens illustrated and described herein form part of my

No. 5



No. 6

collection and were picked up personally by me in Corea or have been directly traced to the Hermit Kingdom, which inclines me to deduce that this country is the principal source of production of these talismans, and, although Bushell states that the Chinese wear them strung on their girdles, I have never, while in the Middle Kingdom, been able to come across any destined for that purpose.

Just as the glass objects made by the Chinese are generally of small dimensions not larger than the jadeite or agate carvings which are posed as models, so I venture to suggest that these porcelain and glass charms are in imitation of those originally made of jade, ranked by the Chinese as the most precious of precious stones. The fact that I have come across and been able to pick up while in China several of these charms made in jade, strengthens my supposition. The illustrations numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4, refer to glass medallions, the grounds, either translucent or opalescent, giving an illusory resemblance to the models of which they are probably counterfeit presentments.

The predominent colour is of milky white, with the exception of No. 2, of a nile green shade, similar in all respects to the color most prized in jade ornaments.

The inscriptions, identical with those found on copper and brass charms and amulets, are usually in relief when referring to glass coins, and those illustrated, read:

1. "Long Life Riches and Honor," a very common inscription on Chinese charms and amulets.

2. "One Family in the Entire World," a somewhat ambiguous inscription, seen for the first time on talismans.

3. "Successively obtaining the first place at the examinations for the second and third degree and at the Palace examination." Meaningless, perhaps, to foreigners but full of import and good wishes to the aspiring Chinese "litterati." This inscription is not uncommon on charms.

4. Two Manchu characters, signifying "Board of Works Mint." This is evidently from the reverse of the coins of the present dynasty, which is Manchu.

The remaining two illustrations represent charms made of Jade, of doubtful quality, with incused characters, interpreted accordingly:

5. "Life as long as the Pine and Oak," and,

6. "May gold and precious stones fill my halls," in seal characters, a wish which might be also shared by all Occidentals.

Yokohama, December, 1909.

GOLD PRODUCTION.

Output of American Mines in 1908 Was $94,560,000.

Washington, Nov. 24.—The gold mines of the United States produced $94,560,000 worth of the precious metal during 1908, according to the United States geological survey and the bureau of mines, which have cooperated in preparing an analysis of the reports from private refiners and federal mints and assay offices.

The total gold product was 5,470,340 ounces, a net increase in value of $1,214,300. Colorado leads with a productive value of $22,871,000; Alaska was second, with $19,858,800, and California was third with $19,329,700. Porto Rico was the smallest, with a total of only $600. The Philippine islands show a remarkable increase of $219,800 to a total of $824,500.

Some states of the Union, usually not associated in the public mind with gold mining, made a showing in the report. In fact, twenty-one of the states and territories, not including Porto Rico and the Philippines, are producing gold. Texas produced $500 worth in 1908. New Hampshire mined $3,700, and somewhere in the vast grazing country of Wyoming has produced $7,600.

The summary shows a net decrease of 4,073,900 ounces of silver, with a value of $28,050,600. The total production was 52,440,800 fine ounces.

The Medals Issued by the Treasury Department

WHAT GOOD ARE THEY?

(Washington Post.)

There are several little respects in which it would seem that the Treasury and Postoffice Departments of the government are conducted on cheap, catch-penny, minor-league, "ten-twenty-thirt" principles. This diminutive moan has to do with a sort of tinhorn gold-brick game which the Treasury Department stands for—not alone stands for, indeed, but perpetrates.

Some time ago the Post published an account, with illustrations, of a bronze medal now in possession of a citizen of Washington. It was a medal that had been given to an ancestor of the Washington citizen who fought with John Paul Jones on the Bon Homme Richard when that dashing seaman smothered the Britsh frigate Serapis. For his victory on that occasion John Paul Jones got a gold medal from the United States government, and replicas of this medal in bronze were given to the officers who were on board the Bon Homme Richard at the time of the fight.

Another Washingtonian who read of and saw the pictures of this medal in the Post's article was surprised when his wife produced a beautifully-preserved copy of the same medal, that she had kept hidden away with some things that descended to her from her mother a good many years before. She had a maternal ancestor, too, who had fought with John Paul on the Bon Homme Richard, and this medal, carefully preserved through succeeding generations, had finally come to her, to be treasured away in velvet wrappings and cherished as a nice thing to pass along to children and grandchildren.

The husband of the lady who produced this medal, on reading the article in the Post, found out that one of the John Paul medals was on exhibition at the State Department and another at the National Museum, which with that brought to light by his wife and the one in possession of the gentleman whose medal was pictured in the Post, made four of them that were known to exist.

Out of curiosity, the husband took the bronze to the best known numismastist in Washington and inquired if the medal had any numismatic value.

The numismatist smiled dreamily, and yanked out of one of his show cases a dozen or so of trays containing nice, new bronze examples of every notable medal that was ever given to an American hero by the United States government for valorous conduct on land or sea.

Only Valuable as Junk

"They're valuable just as junk," was the numismatist's laconic comment.

Then he produced the price list, issued by the Director of the Mint. In every respect the price list looked like a price list for soap and starch and codfish and canned salmon. The list bore the titles of all the medals the

United States government hasever made at the mint for presentation to heroic men, with the prices in extension for which they could be had by collectors. The John Paul Jones Medal for the Serapis scrap, as set forth on the price list, could be had by anybody by paying in $1.50 to the mint; a new bronze example of the medal, cast from the original die. The names of Decatur and Grant, of Washington and Lafayette—of all the men in the United States who ever got a medal at the hands of the government for distinguished conduct and gallantry in action—figured on the list, and any old medal on the list could be got from the mint by anybody that wanted it, for from $1.50 to the outside price of $8, for medals as big as frying-pans.

Thus, any parvenu of a geneology-mad porkpacker can cough up a couple of dollars, get the medal he wants from the government, the John Paul medal for the Bon Homme Richard fight, say, and then proceed to complaisantly and greasily let the idea slip out in his "set" that his progenitors of the colonial era were mixed up in ties of blood with the famous sea-ranging Scotchman. Or, he can get for a few dollars the medals that Decatur received at the hands of the country, and then proceed to vaguely hint that he's a descendant of the Decatur family on the maternal side. Or he can buy an example of every medal on this Director of the Mint's price list, and claim that the whole bunch were handed down to him from his Revolutionary ancestors. The dies of all these medals are preserved at the mint, and the medals that the government thus issues are not, consequently, imitations or counterfeits. They are the real thing in every respect and, being new, they are, of course, better looking bronzes than the medals originally issued to the hot propositions in battle who earned them at the cannon's mouth or at the edge of the cutlass.

The question is, "What's the use of having had an ancestor who scrapped alongside Paul Jones and got a bronze medal for his work, if every gezebo with a dollar and a half in his clothes can now slip in and get the idential piece of bronze with the official guarantee of its genuineness from the United States Treasury Department?"

In most of the countries of Europe when a particular bunch of nervy men get a particular medal at [illegible]eds of their government for staying with the game to the finish in an action, the dies are destroyed when a sufficient number of the bronzes are cast to supply the men who are entitled to them and the chap who counterfeits one of them is as severely punished as the counterfeiter of the coin of the realm. If medals given by this government for conspicuous merit or bravery are to be had in replica by anybody who has the nominal price charged for the same on his person, doesn't the question, "What good are they?" seem natural and reasonable?

THE TRUE COLLECTOR.

"The true collector is born, not made. There are many who have the instinct for collecting, but lack the discrimination of the connoisseur and do not know what to reject. If, as Bacon sagely observed, 'the art of reading is to skip judiciously,' the art of collecting is to reject with perspicuity. The mere commercial-minded individual who enters the arena of collecting because he sees 'there is money in it' may retire at the end of the contest with a lighter purse and a heavier heart. The man of taste collects because he cannot help it. It is in his blood, and he enjoys the quest of beauty in art as many another grows enamoured of the rod or the gun. The possession of taste is one thing, the acquisition of market values is yet another, and when the two go together their possessor is armed to the teeth, and cannot so easily be ensnared into pitfalls."—Arthur Hayden.

The Anniversay Medal of the Roman Catholic Church of New York

In commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment in 1808 of the Diocese of New York of the Roman Catholic Church, a medal has been designed by Mr. J. Edouard Roine of France, now a resident member of the American Numismatic Society, that in historical record and artistic value will take high rank in the Church medallurgy of the world.

The medal has been struck from dies cut by the Medallic Art Company of New York. It is two and three quarters inches in diameter and its general appearance is fairly portrayed by the annexed half-tone reproduction.

The obverse of the medal is noteworthy, and of special value on account of its portraits of the seven distingnished prelates who precided over the Diocese of New York during the first century of its activities. The center and larger portrait is that of Archbishop Farley, the present incumbent of the sacred office. In the surrounding field are the portraits, indicated by the names on the outer edge of the medal, of

Bishop Luke Concanen, 1808-1810.

Bishop John Connolly, 1814-1825.

Bishop John Dubois, 1826-1842.

Archbishop John Hughes, 1842-1864.

Cardinal Archbishop McClosk, 1864-1885.

Archbishop Michael Corrigan, 1885-1902.

Above the portraits of His Grace the presiding Archbishop, is the symbol of the Holy Spirit—the dove within the trefoil, typifying the Holy Trinity. Below this portrait, suspended from its frame, is the Pectoral cross, worn by Archbishop Farley and presented to him by Pope Leo XIII. At the left in the circle of portraits is the seal of the American Numismatic Society.

The reverse of the medal is archi- faithful and impressive perspective- The center foreground contains a faithful and impressive perspective- relief of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the creation of the architect James Renwick. At the sides, in the background are partial representatives of St. Peter's Church of 1808 in Barclay street, and St. Patrick's Church of Mott street, consecrated in 1815.

The wreath of laurel encircling the edifices is equally divided into four panels in which are placed the follow-

ing coats of arms: at the top are those of Pope Pius X, the ruling Pontiff. On the lower edge are the arms of Pope Pius VII, who created the Diocese of New York in 1808; while at the right are the arms of Archbishop Farley, and on the left is the coat of arms of the Diocese of New York.

With the exception of the few examples of this medal that are now offered for suscription by the members of The American Numismatic Society these medals will be issued only through the organization of the Roman Catholic Church in New York City.

The numbered examples of this medal will be issued as follows:

In gold: No. 1 for His Holiness, Pope Pius X.

In silver: No. 1 for His Grace, Archbishop Farley.

Nos. 2 to 76, inclusive, for subscription by the members of the American Numismatic Society.

In bronze: No. 1 for His Grace, Archbishop Farley.

Nos. 2 to 101, both inclusive, for subscription by the members of the American Numismatic Society.

In all 101 numbered medals.

DISCOVERY OF HERETOFORE UNKNOWN STATE BILLS.

A new issue of old state bills comprising four new varieties has just been discovered in Mississippi. And the entire lot was purchased by B. Max Mehl and sold by him to Mr. Tuthill of South Creek, N. C.

The notes are a state issue and are in denominations of $1, $2, $3 and $5. They are printed in green and numbered in red; and are most beautifully engraved. They all bear the date of September 1st, 1870.

This is undoubtedly the first lot of these bills that ever found their way to a dealer's stock. Mr. Tuthill, whose experience in the paper money line extends over a period of more than forty years, informed the writer that these bills were new to him, and advanced the opinion that they were issued by the "Carpet Bag" government.

The notes are all cancelled with circular holes, having undoubtedly been redeemed at their face value.

The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 73rd meeting of the above named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, February 4th, President H. F. Williams presiding. The following twenty-four members were present: Messrs. Ripstra, Puttkamer, Lewis, Mayer, J. T. Kelly, Madlener, Green, Verkler, W. F. Dunham, McDonald, Tracy, V. M. Brand, Simpson, Leon, Michael, Vercouter, Blumenschein, Holmes, Baker, Sorensen, Williams, Loer, Krausz and Dr. Merrill.

A number of communications were received from members acknowledging receipt of the Nashville medal. The resignation of Mr. J. de Lagerberg was received and accepted. Messrs. Alfred Brand and H. T. Wilson were elected to membership. Captain Maurice Woolman presented the Society's cabinet with a medal of old Battery B, I. N. G.

Under exhibitions, Mr. W. F. Dunham showed a set of U. S. dollars, including the 1804; Mr. Brand a ten thaler piece in silver of Brunswick and a five shilling size piece of Scarborough Castle; and a number of foreign gold pieces by Mr. Williams. Mr. Henry Chapman sent a three-pound Colonial note for exhibition.

Magazines received since last meeting were: Numismatische Correspondenz, Numismatischer Verkehr, Spink's Circular, The Numismatist and Elder Magazine for January, and Philatelic West for February. Auctin catalogs from Elder, Low and Steigerwalt; and catalog with fixed prices from Majer.

Mr. Redman was present as a visitor.

Adjourned to meet March 4th, 1910.

BEN G. GREEN, Secretary.

NO "PENNIES" IN THE U. S. COINAGE.

Strictly speaking, there is no such coin in the United States coinage as a "penny." The only proper name for the small bronze coin is "cent." The word cent comes from the Latin word centum, meaning a hundred, and was first used when our decimal system was established. By common usage, however, the name penny has almost become a standard.

There are $686,000,000 of national bank notes extant, backed by government bonds. There are $342,000,000 of United States notes backed by a gold reserve and $4,000,000 of treasury notes.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPORTANT SALES.

Announcement of several important sales is made in the advertising pages of this issue by Mr. J. Schulman, the Numismatic expert of Amersterdam. After persuing Mr. Schulman's announcement it will be readily noted that the various sales contain coins and medals of interest to every Numismatist.

Having reeeived catalogues of Mr. Schulman's past sales, we look forward with no little interest to the catalogues of his coming sales, which, with their illustrations, will prove nothing less than valuable works on the subject.

The New York Numismatic Club

A special meeting held at Keen's Chop House on the evening of Monday, February 7th, brought together a number of out of town members in New York for the coin sales of that date.

In spite of the inclement weather there was a good attendance and a genuine sensation was furnished by Mr. Edgar H. Adams, who exhibited the newly discovered Confederate half-dollar, the record of which is that it was taken from President Davis, to whom it had been submitted, at the time of his capture and remained in private hands in a bank vault for upwards of twenty eight years. The effect of the exhibition of this coin was to bring the representatives of the entire American press from Maine to California down on the meeting and it is doubtful if any Numismatic discovery of recent years has provoked such a furore in the papers or been as widely heralded as this. Mr. Adams will shortly offer the coin at auction, valuing it, for argument's sake, at $5,000.

Mr. Howland Wood of Boston, the new editor of the American Journal of Numismatics, was the guest of the evening.

The regular monthly meeting of the Club was held on Friday evening, February 11th, and was attended by George H. Blake, Charles Podhajski, Wayte Reymond, Edgar H. Adams, D. Macon Webster, Rudolf Kohler, Albert R. Frey, Daniel R. Kennedy and Frank C. Higgins. Better attendance was again impeded by inclement weather. The motion of Mr. Webster that the club seek more available and advantageous quarters was discussed and eventually carried. A committee was appointed consisting of the President, Mr. Fry and Mr. Webster and instructed to investigate and make such change as should seem desirable without further delay.

Among the many beautiful exhibits of the evening was a splendid and absolutely uncirculated medallion of the Roman Emperor Constans I, shown by Mr. Raymon, this piece being an unpublished variety of one of the greatest rarities of the Roman series. Mr. Raymond also exhibited a didrachm of Pixodorus of Caria with perfect facing head of Apollo, and a gold stater of Lysimachus both uncirculated and unpublished. Dr. Martin Burke brought several extremely interesting and perfectly preserved specimens of ancient Greek copper coinage, among which a Syracusan "chalcus" with a head of Apollo of the very rarest style of execution and with standing eagle reverse. Dr. Burke's other pieces were of the same general character but served to accentuate the artistic rarity of the first.

Mr. Podhajski exhibited an interesting selection of Austrian and Hungarian Ducats and rare gold of Napoleon I.

E. H. Adams permitted inspection of a scarce medal executed by the

famous Pacific coast engraver Albert Kuner on the occasion of the conclusion of peace between his native country and France in 1871.

The piece is remarkable as the only known medallic venture of the engraver of the California private gold of 1849-1855.

Special Notice.

In pursuance of the instruction of the membership of the New York Numismatic Club to effect a change of headquarters, we have selected the Park Avenue Hotel on Park avenue between Thirty-second and Thirty-third streets as the future place of meeting and the next reunion of the Club will be held there on Friday evening March 11th, at 7:30 p. m.

This alteration has been effected entirely with reference to the greater proximity of the Park Avenue Hotel to the subway and the lines of travel most convenient to our Brooklyn and out-of-town members.

We have to thank the management of Keen's Chop House for the greatest courtesy and many kind attentions during our sojourn with them and that resort will continue in great favor with many of our members who have come to appreciate it through connection with the club.

F. C. HIGGINS.
A. R. FREY.
D. M. WEBSTER.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Baywood, Va., Feb. 14th, 1910.

Mr. B. Max Mehl,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Noticing reference to a new mint mark found on 1905 dime from New Orleans mint, set me to looking at mint marks generally. The first result was to find one dime with the microscopic "o" as described by your correspondent, after looking through all the dimes in two or three postoffices and two banks. This eems to indicate that the 1905 small "o" variety occurs on about one of each 1000 dimes made at New Orleans since 1900.

Another discovery is in regard to quarters made at the same mint. I have examined quite a few of the present style quarters made from 1891 to date, and find mint mark "o" placed in four distinct positions as regards letters and eagle's tail.

First, I find the great majority of these quarters have the mint mark placed about midway between the last R of quarter, and D of dollar, and about one-half millimeter below the eagle's tail.

Second, I find the "o" just about one-half M. to left of D of dollar and same distance from eagle's tail.

Third, I find the "o" about the same distance from R of quarter and same distance from eagle's tail.

Fourth, I find on quarter of 1892 the "o" directly over last R of quarter and no space between it and eagle's tail—in fact the eagle's tail had to be "bobbed" to make room for it. This seems to be the rarest of the "o" quarters, as I have only found one and that dated 1892. The others seem to be common.

S. E. YOUNG, M. D.

List of The Most Valuable United States Coins

The following list of the rarest U. S. coins was kindly compiled by Mr. Chester F. Dunham at the instance of several requests received from readers of his article, "United States Coin Values," published in the February number of The Numismatic Monthly.

The list was compiled from the auction records of the coins in extremely fine to proof condition. It is well to remember that the same coins in inferior state of preservation could be purchased at far lower prices than quoted below:

Gold Coins—$20.00.

1849	Unique
1875	$ 100.00
1907	40.00

$10.00 Pieces.

1795	32.00
1796	32.00
1797	50.00
1798	120.00
1804	80.00
1838	32.00
1858	105.00
1907	35.00

$5.00 Pieces.

1795	95.00
1797	250.00
1798	51.00
1815	2,000.00
1819	650.00
1821	300.00
1822	2,160.00
1824	165.00
1825	150.00
1826	60.00
1827	350.00
1828	370.00
1829	360.00
1832	310.00
1833	50.00

$4.00 Pieces.

1879 Pattern	100.00
1880 Pattern	250.00

$3.00 Pieces.

1865	41.00
1873	210.00
1875	725.00
1876	135.00
1877	85.00

$2.50 Pieces.

1796	117.00
1797	240.00
1798	50.00
1802	80.00
1806	200.00
1821	47.50
1826	200.00
1827	39.00
1831	31.00
1834	320.00
1842	155.00
1852	60.00
1854	37.50

Gold Dollars.

1855 (D)	53.00
1856 (D)	65.00
1860 (D)	80.00
1861 (D)	280.00
1863	55.00
1864	46.00
1865	34.00
1870 (S)	135.00
1875	100.00

SILVER COINS.

Silver Dollars.

1794	210.00
1795	53.00
1801	37.00
1804	3,600.00
1836 Pattern	150.00
1838	210.00
1839	100.00
1848	45.00
1851	100.00
1852	100.00

Half Dollars.

1796	225.00
1797	150.00

Quarter Dollars.

1796	45.00

1805	92.00
1822	47.00
1823	350.00
1824	42.00
1827	280.00

Dimes.

1798	40.00
1801	44.00
1804	100.00
1822	52.00

Half Dimes.

1802	715.00
1863	44.00
1865	36.00

One Cent.

1793	235.00
1796	50.00
1799	210.00
1802	52.50
1804	100.00
1808	44.00
1809	40.00
1823	170.00

Half Cents.

1795	40.00
1796	47.50
1797	66.00
1831	50.00
1836	53.00
1840	42.00
1841	45.00
1842	105.00
1843	66.00
1844	51.00
1845	105.00
1846	57.50
1847	57.00
1848	60.00
1849	50.00
1852	66.00

MAGNIFICENT WORK ON ANCIENT GREEK COINS

We are in receipt from Mr. L. Anson of a prospectus of his "Numismata Graeca," and from the specimen page and samples of one of the plates it may be readily noted that the work will fill a long-felt want among the lovers of ancient Greek coins.

The following is an excerpt from the prospectus, and from which an idea may be had as to the exhaustive manner in which the subject is treated.

"The constantly recurring difficulty of identifying ancient coins has always been a stumbling-block to the numismatist, varying in accordance with his experience and knowledge and with the rarity of the coin in question.

"The classification of coins under the headings of countries, towns, kings, etc., though useful and in some cases adequate, at times involves much search, at the end of which the enquirer may still be in a state of uncertainty. Sometimes, too, the country or town of issue is unnamed or obliterated, in which case the collector has only the slenderest clues to guide him.

The present work, which has been achieved after the labor of many years and the expenditure of a large sum of money, was undertaken with the view of removing the difficulties which tend to make the collection of coins laborious and unsatisfactory to all except the expert.

"Every known Greek and Graeco-Roman coin the type of which represents an inanimate object has been classified under the heading of the type and also of the symbol or symbols represented upon it, and the identification becomes the work of a few minutes."

This splendid work is to be published in six parts, 100 to 150 pages of text and 30 or more collotype plates in each part.

"Enclosed please find renewal of my subscription to your valuable magazine. Would not be without it for a good deal more."—H. Baer.

"I could not think of doing without your valuable Numismatic Monthly."—J. D. Cox.

Gold and Silver Coins

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES AS TO THEIR REDEMPTION.

[By a Special Contributor.]

The financial laws of the United States permit the redemption of a silver piece so long as the face shows what its face value is. When it has become so worn out that its country is unknown the government would pay nothing for it, not even the price of silver bullion, unless Congress happened to have made an appropriation to purchase silver bullion. Right now it would not bring a penny from the Treasury.

As to a gold piece, Uncle Sam will give you a new one for it just so long as it is not below the weight prescribed by law. When it gets down to that, no matter if its face is completely worn away by usage, the government will pay you its bullion value.

This is one of the differences in treating the two kinds of money, and it's only one of many. There is a widespread general impression that a silver piece passes current at its face value just because nobody bothers to send it back to the Treasury, and that when it does go back, the Treasury will pay for the amount of silver it then contains, and no more. That isn't so. Any unpunctured or unent silver piece, dollar, half-dollar or quarter, is good for a brand new piece just so long as a government official can detect that the coin has been minted by the government of the United States. When its usage has passed beyond the stage when it is possible to tell whether it has borne emblems of the United States, of Mexico, of Canada or some other country, then it's not redeemable at any price at the Treasury or any of the sub-Treasuries. The only way to get rid of it is to pass it off on the first street-car conductor who isn't watching his business and let him work it off on some other man. How far it will go before it cannot be passed upon anyone is hard to tell.

Just so long, therefore, as there is anything on either face of a silver piece to show that it is a coin of the United States you can handle it without loss to yourself. But this is not so with a gold piece. Its face may tell what it is and how much the government made it to pass for, but if it is below the weight you must stand the loss when some bank or concern refuses to accept it at face value. National banks lose considerable money this way. When a silver piece is done for, however, it is "all in," to use a vernacular, while the gold piece will bring all the gold in it is worth.

The government tries hard to keep light gold pieces from circulation, and when once in possession does not let them go out any more. They go to some of the mints, where they are melted and made into new money. It is frequent that national banks send into the Treasury or some of its branches gold pieces too light for continuation in circulation. The Treasury discounts the light coins, and the bank must stand for the loss. Few individuals lose anything this way. Few banks are the real losers, as they make their customers pay the difference. But many banks accept the light pieces without saying anything, as a customer would kick up a "rough house" if allowed below face value for a gold piece.

Weight of Gold Pieces.

The government is fair in its discounts of light gold pieces. It does not undertake to place an entire shipment of gold pieces in the scales and make a discount on all. The law says that each individual piece must weigh so much to be worth the amount stamped upon it. A $20 gold piece

must weigh 513 42-100 grains to be worth all it is minted for. The standard weight when turned out is 516 grains. The abrasion, then, must be one-half of 1 per cent. to affect the value of the coin. If a bank sends in 100 $20 gold pieces and asks for gold certificates in their place, the Treasury officials do not weigh all the coins at once and make a discount on their combined loss. Each piece must be weighed separately, if they are considered to be badly worn.

It is estimated that the life of a gold coin, before it has begun to wear to a losing extent, is twenty years. If put away in a stocking and left undisturbed, it is good for many years. After twenty years' constant contact with business it ought to be retired and a new one put out in its place. The coinage laws distinctly state that a gold coin shall be received at its nominal value by the United States for twenty years after its issue, provided it is not below the weight.

A $10 gold piece weighs 258 grains when turned out. It must weigh 256 71-100 grains to come within the law. The $5 pieces, $3, $2.50 and $1 pieces wear faster than the larger pieces. Every piece of money minted by the United States, whether gold or silver, contains one-tenth alloy. The same alloy is used in both gold and silver, but Treasury officials think that a silver dollar will wear longer than a $20 gold piece when each has been put through about the same usage.

The United States stopped the coinage of $3 and $1 gold pieces in 1890, and those coins have almost disappeared, commanding a good premium. It has been years since any of these pieces made their way back to the Treasury. Regardless of whether they are below the limit of tolerance they are put away for a further rise in price. The weight of a single gold dollar worth its face value should not be below 25 55-100 grains.

NEW ISSUES.

Spain. There is a small copper coin of the present King which was used five years ago, but is still quite scarce, the head unlike the silver piece faces right. Obv. Profile of king to right showing military dress. Ins. "Alfonso XIII por la G. de Dios." Rev. Crowned arms dividing "2c" in headed circle. Ins. "Rey Constl. de Espana S. de. date. V. Copper. Edge plain.

2 cent de peseta date 1904, size 20.

Italy. On page 89 we described a beautiful new copper coin of this country and are now able to state that two other values of same design were issued at the same time. Copper. Edge plain.

1 centesimi, date 1908-09, size 15.
2 centesimi, date 1908-09, size 20.
5 centesimi, date 1908-09, size 25.

Portuguese India. Mr. D. Proskey has shown us a beautiful little coin of this colony. Obv. Profile head of king to right. Ins. "Carlos I Rei de Portugal MCMI." Rev. Crowned arms in center. "India Portugueza 1-12 Tanga." Copper. Edge plain.

1-12 Tanga, date 1901, size 18.

Congo Free State. We are also indebted to the same gentleman for a set of nickel coins for this country. Obv. Radiant five-pointed star with circular hole in center. Ins. Value and date with six stars, three on each side. Rev. five pairs of "L's" (one of each being reversed) crowned, in beaded circle. Ins. "Leop. II R. D. Belges. Souv. de L'Etat Indep. du Congo." Nickel. Edge plain.

5 centimes, date 1906, size 19.
10 centimes, date 1906, size 22.
20 centimes, date 1906, size 25.

—Metropolitan Philatelist.

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E. B. STEVENS.

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Numismatist.

Fort Worth, Texas.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

APRIL, 1910

Volume 3 Number 4

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B. MAX MEHL

NUMISMATIST

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, U. S. A.

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Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, APRIL, 1910 No. 4

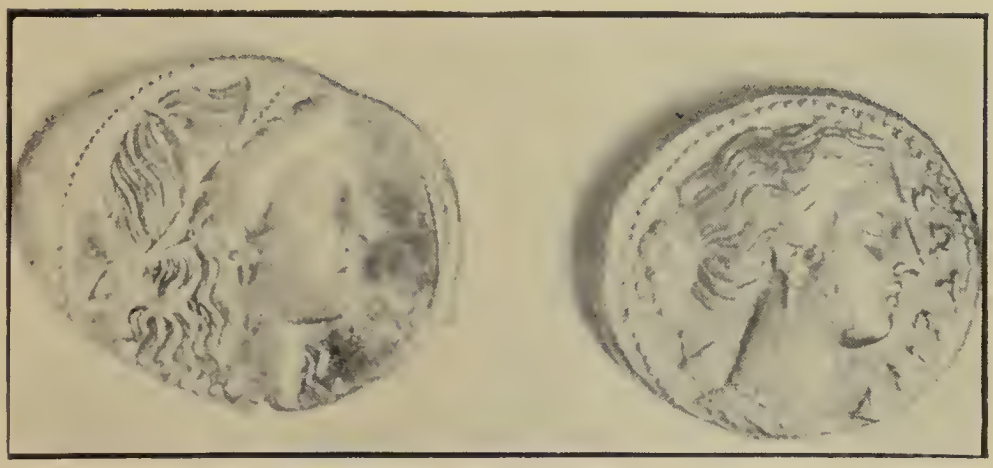
Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

Human Hair as Seen on Roman Coins

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY,

By F. A. HASSLER, M. D., Ph. D.

"A Woman's Hair Is Her Crown of Glory."



Upon looking over a collection of ancient Roman coins with the eye of an art critic it does not need any deep penetration into the matter to see that, as in other artistic affairs the world over, the artists who cut the dies took much greater pains to perfect the female heads upon such coins than they did all other figures or symbols. Therefore we may expect to, and do, find many beautiful portraits of the noble women of ancient Rome as well as some of the most infamous. Before the time of the empire human female heads seem to be entirely absent unless we might except one or two described as, "a female head to the right with the hair tied or braided and held with a fillet," but there are many representations of the goddesses upon which the artist has bestowed his greatest care.

Juvenal, who lived in the time of Nero, tells how the hair was piled up on the heads of the fine ladies:

"so high they build her head, such tiers on tires,"

and the account he gave of the manner of treating the slaves who dressed these heads reminds us of the Russian noble (?) lady who kept a man slave

in an iron cage for many years because he could arrange her hair to her satisfaction.

"Th wretched Psecas, for the whip prepared,
With locks disheaveled and with shoulders bared,
Attempts her hair; fire flashes from her eyes,
And—'strumpet, why this curl so high?' she cries;
Instant the lash without remorse is plied,
And the blood stains her bosom, back and side."

From this we see that the tonsorial art was far from being neglected in these ancient days, and an examination of the coins confirm the idea.

As we said about the coins of early Rome do not show the hair of the human female unless we may except that of the Vestal Æmilia, the mother of Romulus and Remus, as she is said to be figured on one of the coins of the AEmilia family struck about seventy years before Christ. Although this coin is a rather late issue it is supposed to show the head of the mother of the founders of Rome and the artist has given the dressing of the hair as it was in his day with a simpulum before and a wreath behind the neck. This lady is represented as wearing a diadem and two long plaits one passing before and one behind the upper part of the diadem and terminating in a knob, or roll at the occiput, while the back of the head is adorned with a series of small balls which would tire the patience of any modern tonsorial artist to construct, and a few straggling locks hide the back of the neck, a part of a human being never beautiful.

As we advance in studying the beauties of ancient Rome we are in the position of one who climbs a mountain, the landscape at first is small, but as he ascends it stretches out as far as the eye can see, so it is with us, the imperial ladies were not slow in having their portraits taken for the benefit of those who were to come after, and the number of those whose portraits we see o nthe coins seem to increase as we study them and the methods of dressing the hair are numerous.

Our illustrations are not made to show the beauty of the Roman ladies and the artist has taken no pains with the faces although those of Pictina and Sabina show the differences produced by age. In figure 2 Sabina is seen as a young woman (on the coin she is seen face to face with her husband, Hadrian), and as we see her in figure 3 she is represented as well advanced in years with what might be called a flabby countenance and we note the difference in the manner of dressing the hair. First, we have the gaiety of the young woman with what was probably an ostrich plume on the top of her head, a band which may have been of gold holding up her stray locks and either three very artistic twists of hair or three enormous jewels, standing straight up above her forhead, and it may be here remarked that on none of these coins do we see earrings although the Roman ladies wore many such especially of pearls, sometimes three or four in each ear, of great value.

There is a coin of Sabina upon the reverse of which is the goddess Pallas trampling upon a triton and a writer describes the coronet on the head of the empress as follows: "The coronet is of three parts; the first band is narrow and joined to the second, which is broad, and both are ornimented with indentations, joining into each other. Added to these is a third band, narrow at the side and progressively rising to a sort of pointed crown or coronet, which seems in the original crown or coronet worn by Sabina to have been ornimented with jewels." In our illustrations we see these bands of the coronet used to support the hair which is sometimes twisted in and out upon them.

1.

Rhea Silvia
Priestess of Vesta.

2

Sabina

3

FAUSTINA Tr
as on 1 B. R.
CONCORDIA. s.c

PLOTINA
A.D. 98-117
Æ.

Æ of Perinthus
Thrace.
Plotina

On Æ of
Byzantium.
Plotina

Lucilla.
Æ Medallion

4
Sabina

5
Sabina

Æ 2 Julia
Titi

1 B. Agrippina
Sr. Wife of
Germanicus.

¾ of Claudius.

On Æ of
Amastris
Plotina

In a lecture delivered by Lady Evans several years ago she traced the modern styles of dressing the hair to the old Romans and proved her statements by a fine collection of coins, but it is hardly likely that she could find any modern head adorned in the manner we see in figure four. Here Sabina's hair is arranged as if it was to represent the waves of a choppy sea and must have taxed the dresser's art. The legend on this coin is like that on number 3 except that in place of "COS" it reads "GPP." We must remember that the dye cutters in olden times did not punctuate the legends.

We have no doubt that the empress led the fashion and styles of hair dressing constantly changed. A change of this kind is seen on the coins of the two Faustians, for Faustina the elder, the wife of Antoninus Pius, is always represented with her hair coiled "in many a wreath" on the top of her head while the daughter led the fashion with her hair in a similar coil at the occiput. These two women were the subjects of much scandal but after very thorough investigation the writer has been forced to conclude that they were all they should have been as far as virtue was concerned.

On the coins of Plotina we see again the advance from young womanhood to the flabby face of advancing years, as well as various methods of arranging the hair. On the brass of Perinthus reading "Of the Perinthians, Plotina the Empress," and on the reverse the bust of Trajan the hair is arranged in eight very artistic rolls and at the back of the head there is what looks to be a jeweled band with probably six large pearls, a gem very popular with the wealthy ladies of Rome.

The arrangement of the hair on the brass of Byzantium is very simple, but elegant, and this coin is interesting for on the reverse the empress is offered three fishes, an article of food for which this city was justly noted in early days, and we are reminded of the coins of Gades in Spain—those of the counts of Bar and others. As far as the writer has observed the methods of dressing the hair as seen on colonial coins is more simple than those of the Eternal City, for instance what could be more elegantly plain than the hair as seen on the head of the empress on the coin of Amastris, a city, or as the reverse of the coin states; the "Metropolis" of Paphlagonia on the shores of the Euxine (Black) Sea. This is simplicity itself, much more so than the hair of Julia Domna, as seen on a medallion, where it hangs down in waves most likely produced by the use of hot curling tongs. A medallion of Lucilla shows the hair waves rolling from front to back, probably over what are now called rats and then being twisted into a very ugly coil at the occiput, but this coil, roll, mass of hair, or whatever you choose to call it is simple and graceful empared with the hideous protuberance at the back of the head of Julia Titi as shown on a second brass struck in her honor. The writer well remembers how the ladies in "the sixties" wore nets at the back of the necks, containing a mass of hair, at one time small but later very large. We do not know, but it looks as though the nets were worn by Plotina and Agrippina, and as Lady Evans said, nearly, if not all the present fashions in hair dressing, can be traced back even farther than the days of these ladies.

This subject is an inexhaustible one but we cannot pass by a specimen that was struck at the time of the incestuous marriage of Nero and his sister Octavia, that is, if some of the ancient writers spoke the truth. Octavia's hair is dressed with bands, probably of gold, and we see the moon over her head, while the sun rises over that of Nero. The celebrated Joseph Addison wrote: "Nero and Octavia were not only husband and wife, but brother and sister, Claudius being the father of both. We have this relation between them

marked out in the Tragedy of Octavia, where it speaks of the marriage of Nero:

"To Jove his sister consort wed,
Uncensur'd shares her brother's bed;
Shall Caesar's wife and sister wait,
An exile at her husband's gate?"

—Sen. Oct. Act. I.

And again

"Thy sister, bright with ev'ry blooming grace,
Will mount thy bed to inlarge the Claudian race;
And proudly teaming with fraternal love,
Shall reign a Juno with the Roman Jove."

—Ibid. Act II.

But the subject of our study is inexhaustible and we have merely touched its edges, as to the hair of the fair sex, while equally as much might be said in regard to those who were supposed to have been cast in a rougher mould.

THE 1910 A. N. A. CONVENTION.

While the date for the 1910 A. N. A. convention has not yet been decided upon, and while the time is yet some distance, it is, nevertheless, gratifying to the interested members to note the interest already displayed by that "live" New York Numismatic Club in already planning for the entertainment of the visitors to the next convention, which is to be held in New York City. With an entertainment committee composed of the gentlemen as named at the last meeting of the New York Numismatic Club, the members attending our next convention are certainly assured of a most enjoyable time. From communications received by the editor from various members, we look forward for the largest attendance to our next convention in the history of the A. N. A. conventions.

SOME FINE RARETIES.

Among the many choice and rare coins reported in stock of the "Texas Dealer" is a fine specimen of the Oregon $10.00 gold piece. This is one of the first fine specimens of this great rarity that has been offered. Another specimen offered by a Chicago numismatist was valued at $4,000.00. A fine Wass, Moliter & Co. $5.00 gold piece of which there is but one auction record in the past twenty or thirty years, 1860 and 1861 D. Mint gold dollars, 1861 D. Mint $5.00 gold, 1861 Clark, Gruber & Co. $20, Miners Bank Ten, and numerous other rare and scarce coins of both the United States and Pioneer issues. Want lists receive prompt attention. And the purchase for cash of entire collections or single rare pieces gladly entertained. Address B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

ACKNOWLEDGED WITH THANKS.

We are indebted to Mr. J. Schulman, the Amsterdam, Holland, numismatist, for a copy of the catalogue of the Dr. Jules Meili collection of the coins of Portugal, Portuguese India and the Colonies in Africa, which will be sold at auction in May. The catalogue contains over 2,500 lots, the rarer coins are illustrated in the ten beautiful plates that accompanies the catalogue, besides with numerous illustrations in the text.

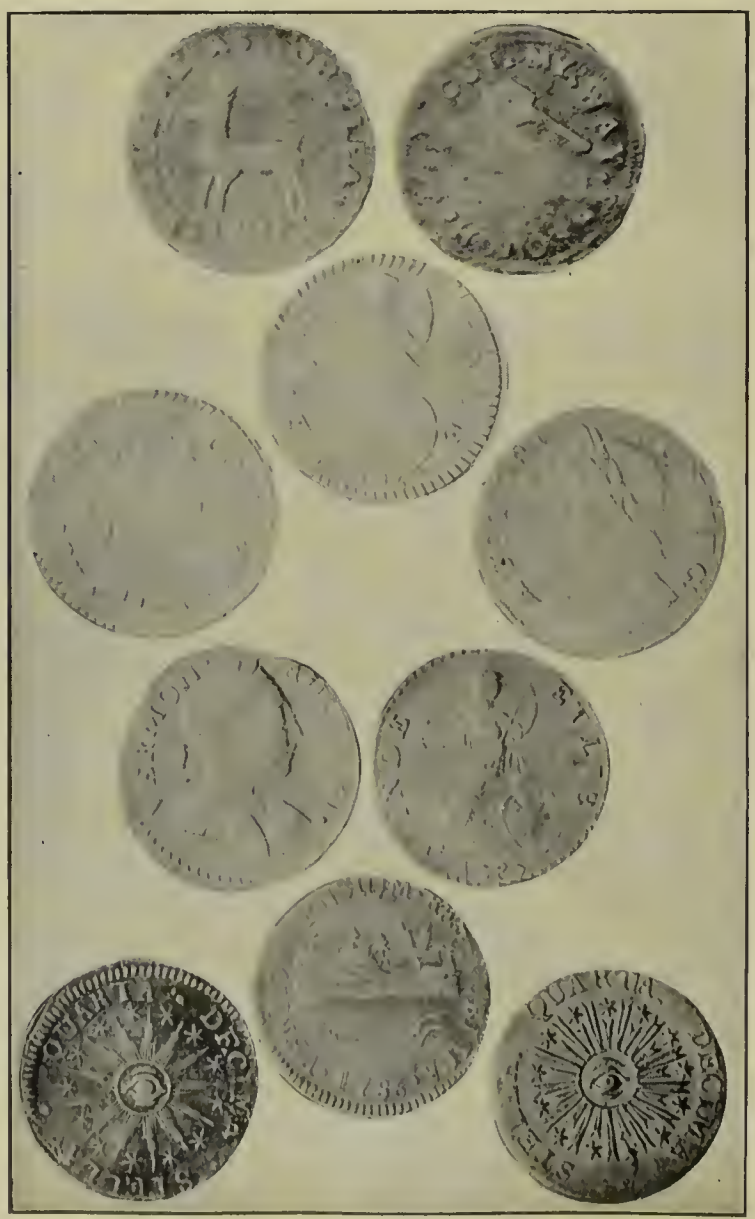
Mr. Schulman will hold several other important sales during 1910, announcement of which appears in the advertising pages of the Monthly.

History of the Vermont Coinage

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY,

By W. H. LATHROP.

Vermont was at one time an independent government and therefore claimed for itself the right to coin money. When the Legislature met in the early part of the year 1785, it granted to Reubon Harmon, Jr., who was a typical Yankee of Rupert, the sole right to coin copper money within the state for a period



of two years. Bonds were required of him to the amount of 5000 pounds on his contract and the weight of the copper was set at not less than one third of an ounce troy weight.

Under the shadow of Mount Antone, the mint house was located on a small stream called Mill Brooks, in the northeast part of the town. The dimensions of the house were 16x18 feet and were made of rough boards, the building stood in the same location for many years and was finally removed to the

town line and used for a corn house. At the east end of the room was the furance for melting the copper and the machine for rolling out the plates, which were about 18 inches long and 1¼ inches wide and 1 16 inch thick after they were polished and trimmed, ready for stamping. In the center of the room was a machine for cutting and in the west end that for stamping. The press was worked by means of a heavy iron screw attached to heavy timbers above and moved by hand with ropes. The lower part of the press was set in the ground and came up about 12 inches above the floor so that the man who handled the plates of copper sat on the floor with his legs hanging in the pit.

The mint could stamp out sixty coppers per minute, and thirty was an average number. The first copper coined was known as the Harmon cent and is now quite rare. This was issued in 1785. Obverse, a high range of hills on which are eight spruce trees, the sun rising just over them, representing the lumber industry, which has since proved of so much value. In the foreground, a plow to represent the agricultural industry. Underneath was the date, 1785, surrounded by the legend, "Vermont Res Publica." Reverse, a radiating eye, between each ray a star, fourteen in number, surrounded by the legend, "Stella Quarta Decima." In 1786 Mr. Harmon was granted an extention of his privileges to the end of the year 1895.

In 1786 a change was made in the weight and design of the coin. Obverse, hills on which were nine trees, legend "Vermontensium Res Publica." A different style plough in the foreground and date, 1786. A change was also made in the reverse, but the legend was the same. There were thirteen or more styles and types of the coppers stamped out at the Harmon mint from a number of different dies, but for how many years no record can be found. The coins were circulated so extensively that the accumulation became great and the coins lost their value.

In 1786 the firm which then consisted of four members, Reuben Harmon, Wm. Cooley of Rupert, Vt.; Elias Jackson of Litchfield, Conn., and Daniel Voohis of New York City. It is supposed that Wm. Cooley, better known as Col. Cooley, who had been a goldsmith in New York City, cut most of the dies and assisted in striking out the coppers. Wm. Buel, a man of considerable note in Rupert, and a son of Abel Buel of New Haven, Conn., who had for a long time been connected with the New Haven mint, came to Rupert about that time and worked for Harmon in his mint for the Connecticut coppers and stamped out many from the dies in the Harmon mint. In 1787 six other members were added to the firm from New York State and a mint was erected near Great Pond, Ulster County, New York, under the supervision of the New York members. Coppers struck at this mint had the head of King George on the obverse so that when the Green Mountain Boys got them they were called Tory coppers. Mr. Harmon was required after the expiration of three years to pay two and one-half per cent on his coinage into the state treasury.

About the year 1800 a large amount of counterfeit silver coins were put into circulation, and for some time no clue could be found to the circulators, but finally suspicion fell on three brothers by the name of Crane and after a long search their machinery for coining was located in the woods on the side of Mount Antone. Some of the apparatus proved to be from the old Reuben Harmon mint. It was taken and broken up. The Cranes made good their escape and after a time it was reported that two of them were hung for a crime down South.

The Grover Cleveland Plaquette

The Committee on the Publication of Medals of the American Numismatic Society of New York has prepared a placquette in commemoration of the life and public services of Grover Cleveland.

The model has been made by J. Edouard Roine, formerly of Paris, now residing in New York City, and a member of this society.

The annexed photo-engraved reproduction of both sides of this design is the same size as the placquette.

The portrait of Mr. Cleveland was studied from those most cherished by his family and with the valuable assistance of some of its members and their friends.

The sentence, VOX POPULI, inclosed by a crown or wreath of ivy, is intended as a reference to his election by the people, as Mayor of the city of Buffalo, as Governor of the State of New York and twice as President of the United States.

On the reverse the seated female figure represents Democracy, with face upturned to her right as if reading the sentiment:

PUBLIC OFFICE
A PUBLIC TRUST.

that has been taken from Mr. Cleveland's address, October 25, 1881, when accepting the nomination as Mayor of the city of Buffalo. The figure holds in her left hand a starred sphere representing the States of the Union, and supports by her right hand the tables of the law, framed on the sides by the fasces of authority.

PAX and LABOR are inscribed upon the main supports of the chair.

The building at the left is suggestive of public office, while in a distant square a monumental column, surmounted by an eagle with outstretched wings symbolizes force and alertness. The grove of oak trees in the background signifies the peace and shelter of the retired life, after the stress of the political career.

The dies for this work have been made by the Medallic Art. Co. of New York, and there have been struck therefrom 152 examples. The dies are now deposited in the Museum of the Society as a part of its collection.

The issue is as follows:

In native gold from California, for two members of the Society..... 2

Now offered for subscription by the members of the Society:

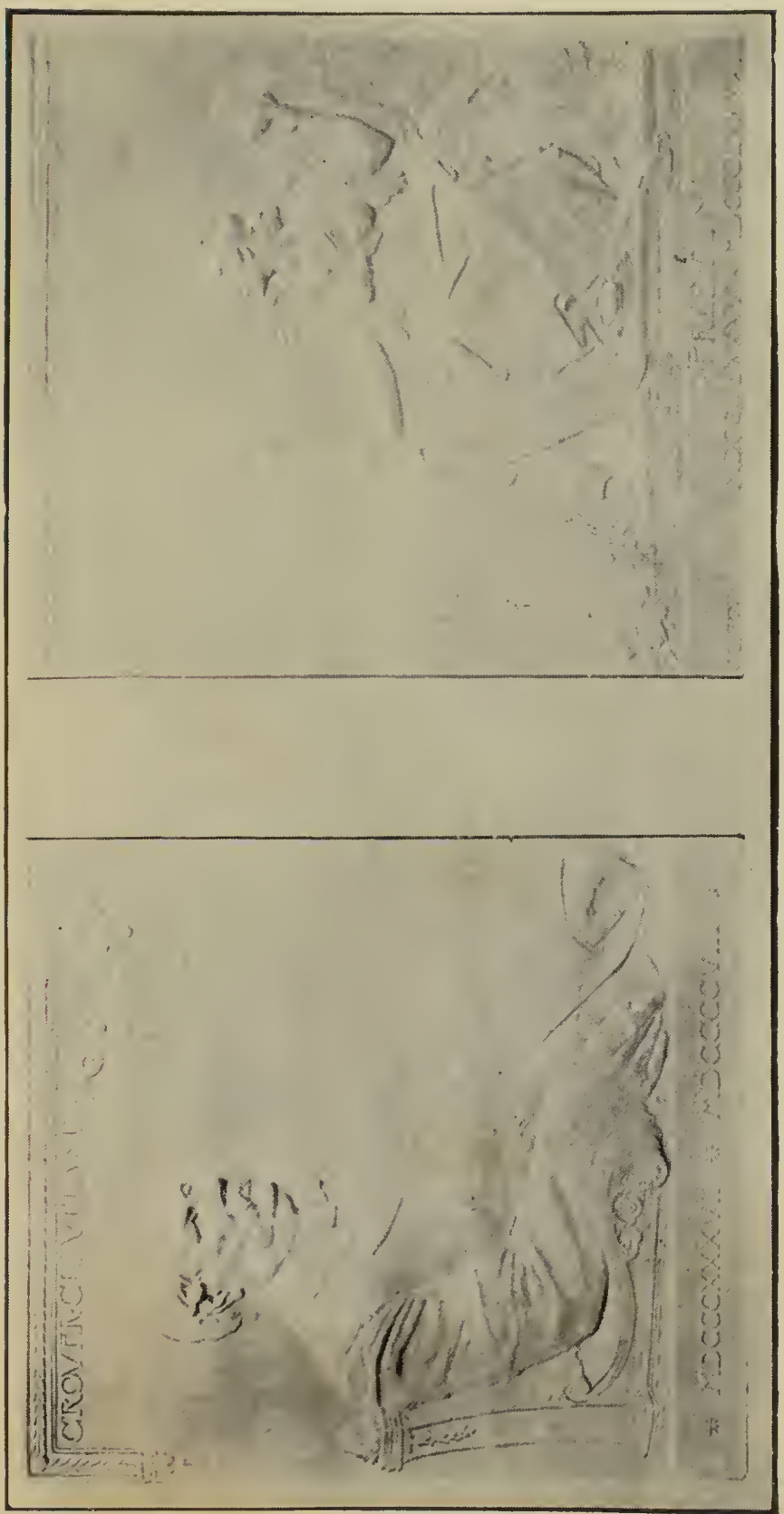
In sterling silver, at $10 each 50
In bronze, $5 each 100

The silver and bronze plaquettes are numbered respectively on their edges from one upward.

Plaquette, in silver, number one, has been presented by our Society to Mrs. Grover Cleveland, and that in bronze, numbered one, has been given to her elder son, Richard Cleveland.

Each member may subscribe for one or more examples, and they will be allotted to subscribers therefor in the numerical order of their applications until the entire issue has been taken.

The right is reserved to issue during the year 1910 not exceeding one hundred and fifty additional plaquettes in bronze, unnumbered, which with any plaquettes not subscribed for hereunder on or before April, 1910, will be disposed of by the Committee on the Publication of Medals as it may deem for the best interests of the Society



THE GROVER CLEVELAND PLAQUETTE

INTEREST IN NUMISATICS INCREASING.

That interest in numismatics is steadily increasing in every part of the country, is evidenced by the steady advance in value and prices of all desirable and also the cheaper class of coins. In fact, dealers now pay as much for rare coins as they sold them for not over two years ago. The 1836 dollar which could be obtained for about $14.00 in proof condition not over a year or two ago, now readily retails at $25.00. The same may be said of several other of the scarcer U. S. coins.

But the young collector need not feel discouraged that his means may not permit his acquiring the rare U. S. Coins. If he is really looking for numismatic enpoyment, he need not, necessarily, invest in valuable U. S. coins, but a small amount intelligently invested in Ancient Greek or Roman coins will, if properly studied, bring more real numismatic knowledge than any scarce modern coin at many times the price of the ancient coins.

THE MARVELOUS SUCCESS OF THE STAR COIN BOOK.

When nearly 50,000 copies of a coin book issued by a coin dealer are sold within less than four years it is indeed evident that the book earned its success.

The first issue of the Star Coin Book appeared in 1906 and retailed at 10c a copy. This issue of 10,000 copies was sold out in less than a year; then followed the second edition, a larger and more elaborate book at 25c, which met with greater success than the first. This prompted the publisher to publish a trial issue of a 50c book, the success of which was even greater than of the preceding issues. A more elaborate and complete book was then prepared and issued in last December as the fourth edition. And in less than four months, over eight thousand copies have been sold, both at wholesale and retail.

The following is what the "American Boy," of Detroit, published in regard to the book:

Star Coin Book—Published by B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas. "An elaborate encyclopedia" of rare American and foreign coins, giving the dates of all rare U. S. and foreign coins, paper money, etc. Mr. Mehl has placed upon the market a coin book of great value to the general public. Prices are quoted showing what is paid for the coins listed, but scattered through the book is a vast amount of interesting information.

In addition to the text there are no less than fifty-two full page half-tone plates, showing a wonderful variety of coins, including the U. S. $50 gold pieces of 1877, of which only two specimens are known. They were sold at $10,000 each, the highest price ever paid for a coin.

The "Query" column of many a paper devotes considerable attention to coin values and this book with quotations for copper half-cents, nickel, silver, and gold pieces, will prove a veritable mine of information.

Several pages are dvoted to the necessity money of the United States and this section of the coin book alone would make the book of more than ordinary interest and value to the philatlist.

We take great pleasure in recommending it and feel that in this review we are doing scant justice to its many praise-worthy features. It consists of 132 large pages, printed on heavy calendared stock and the price, 50c, will place it with in the reach of everybody. We feel that we are doing the proper thing in strongly recommending the addition of this coin book to the library of every philatelist."

The Confederate Half Dollar

ONE OF THE MOST DESIRABLE COINS IN THE WORLD.

"The Only Numismatic Record of a Nation of Nine Millions of People Who Maintained a Precarious Existence in the Face of Overwhelming Odds for the Space of Nearly Four Years and a Half."

The beginning of the year 1910 was signalized in a numismatic way by the offering for sale of the only known specimen of the official metallic coinage of the Confederate States of America.

Coming from its resting place in a safe deposit vault, where it has lain for 28 years, this unique half dollar created quite a sensation in the numismatic world, and, on account of its unsual historical cognificance caused much interest among the lay world, which usually takes but little interest in a coin purely as such, but which is always intensely alive to any souvenir or relic that is so closely associated with the Lost Cause.

There are very few American coins today that can be said to rank in interest with this half dollar, with its authoative U. S. obverse and distinctive Confederate States reverse design. Such a unique combination of the official devices of two great opposing powers probably has not another parallel in history.

The story of the finding of the Confederate half dollar is as follows: E. Mason, Jr., a Philadelphia numismatist, prepared an article on rare coins for a local newspaper, which appeared on January 2, 1879. A few days later he received a communication from B. F. Taylor, M. D., then the secretary and treasurer of the Louisiana State Board of Health, stating that he had a Confederate coin in his ossession, and a few months later sent to Mr. Mason the original coin and the die.

Mr. Taylor had been chief coiner of the Confederate mint, and said the United States mint had been turned over to the Confederate States of America by the State of Louisiana the last of February, 1861. The old officers were retained by the Confederate government, viz: Wm. A. Elmore, Superintendent; A. J. Guirot, Treasurer; M. F. Bonzano, Melter and Refiner, and Howard Millspaugh, Assayer.

In April, Secretary Memminger of the Confederate Treasury ordered that designs for half dollar pieces be submitted to him for approval. The design selected was the one now familiar, and the dies were engraved by A. H. M.

Peterson, engraver and die sinker, and were prepard for the coining press by Conrad Schmidt, foreman of the coining room.

It was found for some reason the dies could not be fitted to the regular coining press, so it was necessary to use the old hand or screw press, upon which four coins were struck.

One of these coins was given to the Confederate government, and propably is the one which Jefferson Davis is said to have owned. A second coin was presented to Prof. Biddle of the University of Louisiana; the third to Dr. E. Ames of New Orleans, and the fourth was kept by Chief Coiner Taylor.

About this time an order came from the Secretary suspending operations on account of the difficulty of obtaining bullion, and the mint was closed on April 30, 1861.

Mr. Mason disposed of the coin and Confederate reverse die to J. W. Scott of New York city in 1879. Mr. Scott wrote a letter to Jefferson Davis in reference to the coin, and received the following reply:

Beauvoir, P. O.,
Harrison Co., Miss.,

May 10th, 1879.

Sir:—

I had a Confederate coin. It was in my wife's trunk when it was rifled by the Federal officers on board the prison ship on which she was detained at Hampton Roads before and after my confinement in Fortress Monroe. The coin, some medals, and other valuables were stolen at that time. Whether the coin be the same which has been offered to you as a duplicate I cannot say. It is, however, not true, as published, that it is now in my possession.

Regretting that I cannot give you more exact information on the particular subject of your enquiry, I remain, Respectfully,

Jefferson Davis.

Mr. Scott obtained 500 1861 half dollars bearing the New Orleans mint letter, and had the reverse design removed from each. Then the coins were restamped with the reverse die of the Confederate half dollar. He says the die broke on the first trial, and then had to be set in a heavy steel band to prevent further damage. Before risking the die again on the hard silver it was thought advisable to strike 500 in white metal, using this inscription as a reverse: "4 Originals struck by order of C. S. A. in New Orleans, 1861. * * * * * * * *" Rev. same as U. S. (from original Die, Scott).

The 500 half dollars of the N. O. Mint were obtained only after much difficulty, says Mr. Scott. The restrikes were made in John Street, under the supervision of David Proskey. After the restrikes had been made the dies was defaced by filing a deep groove across the face and a brass piece was struck from the defaced die to show what had been done.

The restrikes are interesting in themselves, but are important now in emphasizing the many differences between them and the original coin. In the first place an appreciable loss of weight was shown by the removal of the reverse design of the regular U. S. pieces, this amounting on an average to about 6 or 7 grains, making the restrike weigh about 186 grains.

In restamping the reverse with the Confederate die nearly every restrike shows some sort of distortion, some of the obverses being badly battered and a high ridge forced up all around the border of the coin on both sides, giving obverse and reverse an incused appearance, while the reading in most

instances is very smooth in places and on some coins almost entirely obliterated.

The original piece, on the contrary, is a perfect coin in every particular. It is strictly uncirculated in condition and of perfect diameter and thickness, the reading being as accurate as on a half dollar just made at the mint.

But the greatest point of difference between it and the restrike lies in the weight, which is a trifle over 192 grains, the authorized weight for the regular U. S. half dollar, as it is undoubtful that the coin was struck on a regular U. S. planchet. The piece is such a superb specimen that its genuineness invariably strikes every one the instant he sees it. But as a matter of fact the question of its authenticity has never been questioned.

What became of the other three coins seems destined to remain a mystery. Judging by the letter of Jefferson Davis written to Mr. Scott, it would seem that the Confederate President at one time owned a specimen, which may have been the one said to have been given to the Confederate government at the time the pieces were coined.

The other two specimens, one of which is said to have been given to Prof. Biddle of the Louisiana University, and the other to a Dr. Ames of New Orleans, have never been heard of from that day to this, so far as known, and probably now are no longer in existence.

E. H. Adams, in the Elder Magazine.

The Confederate Half dollar is reported as having sold for $3,750. The coin was bought in by the cataloguer, and the name of the buyer was not made public. But it was hinted that the purchaser was a New York collector.

The New York Numismatic Club

The sixteenth monthly meeting of the New York Numismatic Club assembled at half past seven o'clock Friday evening, March 11th, at the Park Avenue Hotel, the following members being present:

Albert R. Frey, Joe C. Mitchelson, E. Smith, Elmer S. Sears, W. H. Woodin, S. K. Nagy, Daniel R. Kennedy, D. M. Webster, Gustav Jaegg, F. C. Higgins, J. A. Clark, A. G. Heaton, D. Proskey, Wm. Hesslein, Wayte Raymond, Thos. L. Elder, E. H. Adams, R. Kohler, G. H. Blake and Dr. Martin Burke. W. N. Yates of Philadelphia and Louis C. Gehring were present as guests. Mr. W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal, First Vice President A. N. A. was also present. Mr. Louis C. Gehring was proposed for membership.

The official business of the evening involved the ratification of the committee's selection of the Park Avenue Hotel as a permanent headquarters for the club, all present expressing themselves as highly gratified with the new surroundings and the entertainment afforded.

A unanimous vote to this effect was taken and the management so notified.

President Higgs then addressed the members at length on the subject of the American Numismatic Association Convention of 1910, to be held in New York and the necessity of the club taking action to co-operate in the entertainment of visitors.

Having made an informal canvas of members present residing in or near New York, willing to give their time and personal support to the work, the President appointed the following entertainment committee—Chairman, D. Macon Webster, 25 Broad street, New York; members: Messrs. Woodin,

Mitchelson, Frey, Proskey, Adams, Burke,Clarke, Sears, Heaton, Raymond, Nagy and the President, ex-officio.

The District Secretary of the A. N. A., Mr. Rudolf Kohler, was asked to take official cognizance of the formation of this committee and details of further development left in the hands of Mr. Webster, who announced that he would call the first of a series of meetings, at his office at an early date. The names of several members not present at this meeting may be added to the committee.

Mr. Sears exhibited one of the earliest educational medals struck in America, being that of King's College, New Brunswick, in gold, dated 1839, the Douglas Medal issued to one Leroux for scholarship. The reverse bears the Greek inscription, in three lines.

Mr. Hesslein exhibited a finely preserved dime of 1802.

Mr. Woodin, as usual, had several rare patterns of the highest interest to display, among them a proof of the "United States Talent" of 1896, bearing on obverse and reverse the opposing hemispheres of the globe with "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—ONE TALENT" on one side and "ARGENTUM UNIVERSALE—1896" on the other, also the unique pattern "Commercial Dollar" of 1875, a piece having many points of resemblance to the Trade Dollar but of totally different treatment.

Mr. Heaton showed a set of gold 20 franc pieces of all the types issued by Napoleon III, from the Republic of 1850 to the end of the Empire.

Mr. Proskey exhibited a Morroccon half faloos of A. H. 1271 cast so as to present the impossible date, 1721.

The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 74th monthly meeting of the above named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, March 4th, President H. F. Williams presiding. The following twenty-four members were present: Messrs. Ripstra, Lewis, Mayer, J. T. Kelly, Bartholomay, Green, Verkler, Carey, Vercouter, Holmes, Williams, Loer, Krausz, Rau, Wilson, Adams and Dr. Bert.

Messrs. C. E. Woodruff, Eames MacVeagh, Chas. F. Redman and Hyman Baer were elected to membership. Mr. E. H. Adams, a corresponding member residing in Brooklyn, N. Y., gave an interesting talk on general numismatic subjects. Under exhibitions, Mr. V. M. Brand showed the United States Assay medal for 1910, Greek and Roman gold and the English Cartwheel series in gold and copper; Mr. W. F. Dunham some medals; Mr. Williams his collection of Napoleonic gold; and Mr. Green a Waterloo medal.

Magazines received since last meeting were: The Numismatist and Spink's Circular for February. Auction catalogues were received from Elder and Low, and a priced catalogue from Low.

Adjourned to meet April 1st, 1910.

BEN G. GREEN, Secretary.

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NUMISMATIST - - KEIZERSGRACHT, No. 448

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The book is printed on 374 pages of fine cloth, with gold lettering. It is illustrated with 35 full-page half-tone plates of 206 coins The appendix contains a complete bibliography, a table of values, and convenient indices. Price $1.50 net, postage 14c.

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Superior, Nebraska, U. S. A.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

May, 1910

Volume 3 Number 5

WHOLE NUMBER 29

Subscription, 50 cents a year
Single copies 10 cents

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY

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Price for the Entire Collection Only $12.50

A collection of this kind would take much time and patience to form and would cost more than twice as much if each coin was bought separately.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, MAY, 1910 No. 5

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

THE DOLLAR OF 1804

A NUMISMATIC MYSTERY

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY.

By JOHN W. WRIGHT.

Every Numismatist, practically everyone who hordes little flattened disks of metal on account of their scarcity, besides a great number in all walks of life (even those outside the realm stricken by "coinophobia") see daily visions of a classical head, voluptous bust, knotted and flowing hair, "Liberty" above, profile facing to the right, six stars to the right and seven to the left, and the cabalistic legend, "1804" burning in a halo of glory below.

That coin is the "Silver King," the "Boss Dollar," the little metal disk containing within its lettered edge and headed rim the greatest value in longing and cash of any piece that has ever been struck since the world's history began. It is the acme of the coin collector's ambitions, the disturber of his dreams and the day star of his wakeful moments. And yet the average man, or even the greater per cent of the real "Numismatists," can never hope for more than a passing glimpse of this rare mint chimera, or perhaps at most a collection of literature in regard to it.

And what is the correct history, what the mystery, and who among The Numismatic Monthly's readers can give a complete list of the dollars of 1804 now known in the coin dealing world, together with the names of their owners?

I have before me a collection of many newspaper and magazine clippings concerning the dollar of 1804, as well as the official mint record, which gives us to understand that 19,570 pieces bearing that date were coined by our government.

One writer, Chester Dunham (Article, "Grand Old King," October Number, 1908, of "The West," Superior, Nebr.) says, flatly, that "the entire output of the dollars of 1804, ex-

cept six which were smuggled to Numismatists by the mint officials, were shipped off to Japan and China to be circulated among the Orientals, who greedily hoarded all of our bright coins."

Did the almond-eyed Celestials suddenly develop a mania for "hoarding all of our bright coins," and did that fever subside when they came into possession of practically all of our dollar coinage of 1804? They could have hoarded 19,564 pieces from the total of 66,084 dollar pieces struck by the U. S. in 1803 and still left enough to supply several coin cabinets with specimens. We have never had a relative who held a government position and don't care to start a slander suit; however, we are very desirous of learning how Chester ascertained that six specimens of the dollar of 1804 were "smuggled" from the mint!

Mr. Dunham gives a list of "the Six Genuine Authentic Specimens Known as Follows:"

	Highest Price Realized.
1. United States Mint collection	not sold
2. Public Library, Omaha	$570.00
3. Northeastern Historical Society, Boston	775.00
4. Collection of W. F. Dunham, Chicago	2,000.00
5. Collection of J. H. Manning, Albany	1,000.00
6. (Mr. Earle, Philadelphia, Mr. Brand, Chicago)?	3,600.00

And here comes again the mystery. Why that (?) question mark? should there be any doubt in numismatic circles (high circles) as to whether Mr. Earle or Mr. Brand is owner of the $3,600.00 dollar coin? Will somebody explain?

Aside from the list given by Mr. Dunham, I have the following concerning "genuine authentic specimens" of the dollar of 1804: One owned by Felix Schultz in Philadelphia and made the subject of a lawsuit tried before Judge Fitzgerald in that city in 1895. Another specimen, said to be the "last missing coin of the United States dollar issue of 1804." It was brought to light at Cheau, Teton Co., Montana, by Billy Seymour, a business man, who took it in as change on December 20, 1897.

A third owned by John F. Whitley, registry clerk at the Taunton, Mass., postoffice, 1893. W. E. Skinner, the Boston coin dealer offered $1,000.00 for the specimen. It must have been genuine or Mr. Skinner was mistaken by appearances. It finally went to New York, Mr. Whitley realizing $1,200 for his piece.

A clipping from the Boston Transcript, 1893, says that three "genuine and authentic specimens" of the 1804 dollar are held in New England, as follows: By Capt. Nathan Appleton, Boston; by Lorine G. Parmlee, Boston, and by Hon. Wm. Brown of Salem, Mass. Another New England specimen of the 1804 variety, doubtless genuine, is owned by Col. Phineas Adams of Manchester, N. H. The coin cost the Colonel $500.00.

Also I have a record which says that "The British Museum owns a United States dollar of 1804 which cost that institution the good round sum of $800.00."

In 1888 the New York World published an interview with Richard Cogan, a coin dealer of that city. Mr. Cogan said, respecting the dollar of 1804: "The facts are that there is not now, and probably never was, a genuine dollar of 1804." His theory was that the die of 1803 was used probably five or six years and that the dollar bearing date of 1804 may have been struck from dies made as late as 1810 or 1812.

In the same interview, Mr. Cogan said that "12 or 14 dollars bearing date of 1804 are known; two in New York, four in Boston, one in San Francisco, one in the United States Mint collection and another in Den-

ver, besides five or six in private collections in other cities."

Another citation from my scrapbook says: "The most valuable ounce of silver in the world is owned by Major Wetmore, of 15 Waverly Place, New York City. It is a silver dollar of 1804 in almost proof condition."

In 1880, so goes the record, the 1804 dollar which had long been in the collection of Mr. H. R. Linderman, Superintendent of the Mint at Philadelphia, was sold in New York for $470.00. It was restrike in proof condition. Also, in 1882, a fine dollar of 1804 is said to have sold in New York at private sale for $1,000.00. It was from the collection of a "gentleman coin collector who resides in Berlin, Germany."

In the St. Louis Republic of January 24, 1890, I find the following: Numismatists the world over will be interested in knowing that Dr. Edward Waltner, of 203 8th St., St. Paul, Minn., now has in his possession a dollar of the rare coinage of 1804. The doctor found it in the possession of one of his Norweigian patients in Southern Minnesota. The original owner was the Scandinavian's father, who had obtained possession of it in 1827 and had kept it because it was coined the year of his birth.

And still another record, clipping from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, January 18, 1893, dispatch from Alton, Ill.: The sum of $1,300.000 is a big price to pay for a single silver dollar, yet that is the amount paid to Ed. Fitzsimmons of this place, who today parted with his silver dollar of 1804. The buyer was a Chicago coin collector. Mr. Fitzsimmons found the coin among some beads, tomahawks and other Indian relics at the root of an old tree on his farm.

A writer in the "New York Collector" in 1854, says that he has seen a genuine 1804 dollar in the possession of a dealer of old books, whose place of business was on Canal street in New York City. The same writer also refers to a genuine 1804 dollar which the Rosenthal Brothers had received from a debtor in Virginia.

Furthermore, this writer states that the mint authorities had pronounced the Rosenthal piece to be genuine and in fine condition.

And now, while we are confronted by this somewhat imposing array of facts, figures and fiction, let us consider the "Mystery of the Silver King;" "The Grand Old King."

That there is a mystery in connection with the disappearance of the coin, goes without the saying. Mr. Dunham's theory, which is in effect that the dollar coinage of 1804 was hoarded by the Celestials, is to my mind quite untenable. If so hoarded in China and Japan, why are not coin of that issue occasionally picked up by the intelligent collectors who are working in every quarter of the globe? We get coins from the Flowery Kingdom which date back to the "year of one" and to a few dynasties beyond.

Had the output of coins for 1804 been lost on a China-bound vessel, as some writers contend, history or the mint books would contain a record of the facts. Had they gone to the Mediterranean to pay our sailors, who were then in arms against the Barbarry States, as some surmise, not all of that total of 19,000 would have been worked up into nose-rings for African savages. The truth appears to be that we are at the end of our string of research; squarely confronted by "The Big Mystery of the Mint."

New Varieties of California Gold Coins

From the Estate of Mr. Kuner, the Engraver of Most of the Dies of the California Coins.

Six new dates and varieties have just been added to the list of known varieties of the California gold coins, and which will be offered at auction in Mehl's sale. These are interesting not alone that they are of hertofore unknown varieties, but for the reason that they are from the estate of Mr. Kuner, the western engraver who engraved most of the dies of the California gold coins. The "find" consists of six coins, two of each of the dollars, halves and quarters. The dollars are octagonal and the halves and quarters are round and octagonal, one of each. The following is a brief discription of the coins:

Dollar, 1858—Small and perfect liberty head to left. The letter "K" (for Kuner) below, 13 five-pointed stars .Rev. 1 DOLLAR 1858 in three lines within wreath, CALIFORNIA GOLD. Plain edge.

Dollar 1863—Larger liberty head and not as perfect as last, to left, 13 five-pointed stars. Rev. value and date in three lines within beaded circle; legend same as last. Plain edge.

Half Dollar, Round, 1854—Liberty head to left; 14 stars. Rev. Date within wreath; legend, CALIFORNIA GOLD HALF DOL. Plain edge.

Half Dollar, Octagonal, 1855—Liberty head, 11 stars. Rev. 1-4 DOLLAR 1855 in three lines within wreath.

Quarter Dollar, Octagonal, 1857—Liberty head to left, nine stars. Rev. same type as last, but of entirely different die.

The above six coins will be offered in the Auction Sale to be held by B Max Mehl in the latter part of May or early June. Catalogues may be had free of charge.

COMMUNICATIONS

ROMAN HISTORY RE-READ.

New York, April 7th, 1910.

Editor Mehl's Numismatic Monthly.

With all due respect to Dr. Hassler and to Joseph Addison, the original of whose allusions to Nero's incestous marriage with his sister Octavia, quoted in your last issue, I have not by me, I would remark that Nero's first wife, Octavia, later repudiated by him, was not his sister nor was he the son of the Emperor Claudius, except in the sense that Nero, the son of the Consul Creus Domitius Ahenaharbus Nero, was adopted by the Emperor Claudius as his heir and marrried by him to his daughter Octavia, by the Empress Messalina. Nero's own mother was Agrippina, daughter of Germanicus. It is true that Nero's mother became later the wife of Octavia's father with the direct ambition of securing the succession to her son, but of blood relationship between Nero and Octavia there was only the cousinship of common descent from Drusus, half brother of the Emperor Tiberius. The marriages, divorces, repudiations, remarriages and consanquinites and affinities of the early Roman Emperors were as puzzling as those of a latter day Pittsburg millionaire, so unless one is mindful that Nero's sonship to Claudius was only adoptive, consequent upon the latter's marriage with Nero's mother and that he subsequently became son-in-law as well, no end of an historical mixup is the result.

Cordially yours,

Frank C. Higgins.

The 1910 Convention of the American Numismatic Association

Reference will be found on these pages to the continued activities of the New York Numismatic Club in arranging for the reception and entertainment of the A. N. A. Convention this year.

We learn that the Board of Governors of the A. N. A. has now definitely acted upon the suggestion of the Club and officially settled upon the week of September 5-10 as the date of meeting in New York City.

The American Numismatic Society has already tendered the use of their magnificent edifice at Audubon Park to the Association, which has also been accepted so that the main features of the Convention which will serve as the point of departure for the arrangement of all aditional details have now been definitely settled.

As to the dwelling headquarters of the members attending the Convention, while New York City offers an unrivalled choice of hotels, both great and small, there is every reason to expect that special arrangements for the comfort and convenience of visitors to the Convention will be made under the supervision of the New York Numismatic Club, with the management of the Park Avenue Hotel, which seems to present more combined points of convenience and availability and moderation of charges than any resort so far in view.

Aided by an Entertainment Committee under the capable chairmanship of Mr. D. Macon Webster, one of the most genial and entertaining of the many "live wires" connected with the New York Numismatic Club, President Higgins is actively promoting every side of the complicated task before them and will undoubtedly within a few weeks be able to announce a program which will draw enthusiastic numismatists from every corner of the United States and Canada to a week of delight in the metropolis of America.

MEHL'S NEXT SALE.

In the latter part of May or early June I shall hold an auction sale of coins and medals the offerings of which will be of interest to every interested collector. Several very rare United States and Colonial pieces will be offered, also some rare Pioneer gold, including a Mormon $20 gold piece. Nearly every series of the United tates coinage will be represented, with rarities of each, including an unusually fine 1799 cent. The catalogue will be illustrated, and may be had free of charge. If not on my regular mailing list a postal will bring you a catalogue. Address, B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

ACKNOWLEDGED WITH THANKS.

From Dr. Jacob Hirsch, 17 Arcisstrasse, Munich, Germany, catalogue of Greek and Roman coins, including many specimens of great beauty and value. To be sold at auction, May 23rd and 24th. The catalogue, with 24 fine plates, illustrating about six hundred or more of the coins, is priced at 12 marks.

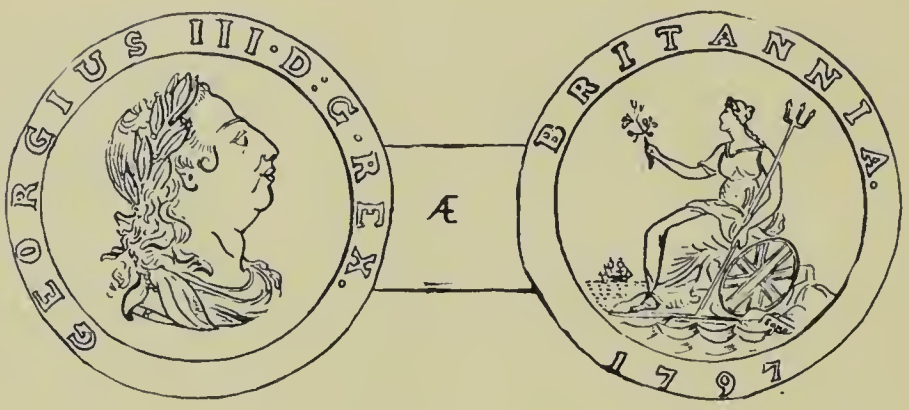
Also, catalogue, with 11 plates, collection of coins and medals of Baden, to be sold at autction May 25th.

Mr. A. H. Ramsden, A. N. A., Secretary for the Far East, sends us greetings in the form of an interesting post card, from Peking, the capital of the "Great and Unwiddy Empire."

The Cartwheel "Tuppence"

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By FRANK C. HIGGINS, F. R. N. S.



American collectors owe much to the genius of the great British engineer, Matthew Boulton, of whose connection with Robert Fulton I told in the October, 1909, issue of The NUMISMATIC MONTHLY, and of whom my old friend, Mr. Samuel S. Spink, writes so entertainingly in the October, 1909, Numismatic Circular. The engineering fraternity of the city of Birmingham and in fact all England have celebrated the centenary of the death of this truly great man who came so near being the cause of our possessing a long series of coins bearing like those of South America and South African Republics the heads of our Presidents.

One of the numismatic wonders of the world although it is not especially scarce is the huge two-penny piece which was issued by the Soho mint in 1797 in order to prove Mr. Boulton's theories on several phases of the coiner's craft which are generally supposed to be quite new among us. He was probably the first of all moneyers to advance the advantages of low relief, incuse modeling and a protective, non clogging rim in coins.

Mr. Boulton who was born in Birmingham, September 3rd, 1728, early demonstrated his possession of that sterling worth for which he was so remarkable throughout life.

He entered his father's factory while yet in his teens and worked as an apprentice to the silversmiths' trade while still continuing his education by dint of night studies. He became an accomplished draughtsman under Wortlidge and followed the science of mathematics under the instruction of Cooper. By the time he was eighteen years of age he had already to his credit several important improvements in the manufacture of steel. The Boulton manufactury specialized in all kinds of art metal work such as buttons, buckels, brooches, cut steel ornaments for footwear and clothing, clock cases, the metal corners, locks and handles of the furniture of the day, much of it being in the so-called "ormoulu," the art of making which has been lost, and above all metal buttons the making of which was the first step toward the coining of money. Started on Snow Hill which is now the center of Birmingham, the Boulton works were in 1762 moved to the suburb of Handsworth, which lies at the bottom of the long and steep incline just named. Just how they became dubbed with the curious title "Soho," is not stated, but this curious word has been for almost a century and a half the mint mark of many of the world's most famous coins. The story of the

"Soho" mint and its productions, for the world famous private mint of the Heatons, close to the same spot, is its legitimate continuation, would fill a volume of the bulk of Head's Historia Nummorum, so that we may be pardoned for limiting ourselves to the single coin we have set out to celebrate. While still struggling with the manifold problems presented by the newly born steam engine in the manufacture of which he had embarked with his friend, James Watt, "Mr. Boulton," writes a chronicler of the time, "upon returning from a journey by road one day, during which he had passed through many toll-gates, discovered in his posession more counterfeit coins than good ones. This led him to consider the subject and he found that a number of small manufacturers were issuing copper washed lead coins in large quantities having grown bold in this illegal trade, partly because of inferior manufacture, the real article was so easily imitated, and partly because the authorities at the Royal mint rather winked at the forgery which saved them from some of the unprofitable work of coining copper at a loss.

He was also grieved to find that the workmen and small trades people of Birmingham as well as the public generally suffered considerably by this fraud."

Mr. Boulton's first encouragement was from the "friend of American Liberty," William Pitt to which enlightened minister he submitted specimens of foreign coins and tokens from the Soho mint. An order was agreed upon on condition that he and Mr. Watts erected the required machinery. This was in 1787 and the result was a coining plant of such perfect description that the same machines performed active service for almost a hundred years. A change in the ministry however put it out of Mr. Pitt's power to keep the government to its word so that in the interval between 1787 and 1797 when he received his first government contract, Mr. Boulton kept his mint busy and the public supplied with half pence by encouraging the issue of the millions of tradesmen's tokens which were issued through private enterprise at this time (the Conder series) and by coining for the British Colonies, the East India Company, Sierra Leone, etc. His attempt to secure a contract from the American Congress by means of the patterns by Hancock (naked bust, large and small eagle, etc.) bearing the effigy of President Washington, are part of our own numismatic history.

In 1797 the British government, which he had never ceased in appealing to, finally issued an order to the Soho mint for five hundred tons of copper coins made up of twopences, pennies, halfpennies and farthings. The weights were to be so graduated that each coin was to contain exactly at the rate of one ounce to the penny of copper. The dies were the work of the engraver, C. H. Kuchler, whose minute "K" is found on all. For some reason or other the entire appropriation of metal was consumed in the twopenny pieces and pence alone although patterns from the half penny and farthing dies of contemporaneous and later execution exist while the latter were employed on copper coins for the Isle of Man.

The quality of these coins was so remarkable that their destruction was secured in many ways than through circulation.

Their absolutely pure copper made them the favorite alloy for gold employed by jewelers and goldsmiths, while they lasted while their mathematical accuracy of weight made them popular on the scales of the grocer and apothecary. Their raised rims and counter-sunken inscriptions also preserved the designs from wear so that most of those which have reached us have survived in excellent condition although many juvenile games had rise in their fine adapta-

bility to "pitch and toss."

The head of George III. on the obverse has been described as being "full of repose and dignity of expression." During the ensuing decade the firm of Boulton & Watt delivered over four thousand two hundred tons of copper coins to the British government although the splendid "Cartwheel" series as they are called were never coined after 1797.

The final apothesis of the "Cartwheel" twopence occurred about ten or fifteen years ago when England was almost depleted of them by silversmiths who set them in all sorts of ornamental cigar-ash and card tray and in other specimens of their craft where many are now being polished out of existence by the relentless hand of the housewife. It was probably in contemplating the coinage of such choice numismatic treasures that Mr. Boulton's close friend, Dr. Erasmus Wilson wrote:

"Now his hard hands on Mona's rifted crest,
Bosomed in rocks, her azure robes arrest,
With iron lips his rapid rollers seize,
The lengthened bars in their expansive squeeze,
Descending screws with ponderous fly-wheels round,
The tawny plates— the new medallions round,
Hard dies of steel the cupreous circle cramp,
And with quick fall his many hammers stamp,
The harp, the lily and the lion join—
George and Britannia guard the splendid coin.

NEW COINAGE FOR CANADA.

Pacific Coast Prefers Silver Coins to Paper Currency.

Ottawa, April 8.—The bill to revise the currency act was passed in the house this afternoon after a discussion, during which Mr. Fielding announced that a Canadian silver dollar would be coined in future at the royal mint. The new coin was to be issued chiefly because the people of the Pacific coast preferred silver currency to paper money.

Mr. Blain (Peel) urged the government to take more effective steps to call in worn and defaced coins now in circulation and to commence negotiations to have Canadian bills accepted in the United States.

Mr. Fielding did not think that recognition of Canadian money could be obtained by negotiations with the United States or by legislation in that country. It was a question of the education of the people of the United States. He said that worn coin was being recalled by the government and exchanged at par. The government had also strained a point and decided to redeem defaced coin at 75 per cent of its face value.

"As we have been discussing moral questions of late," said the minister, "I may say that most of the defaced silver finds its way into church collection boxes, and most of the requests for its redemption comes from the treasurers of the churches."

Mr. Rhodes suggested that the size of the five-cent piece should be enlarged, and that a distinctly Canadian five-cent piece should be coined of Canadian cobalt and nickel.

Mr. Fielding doubted whether nickel was a satisfactory metal for coins.

Mr. Fielding agreed to notify all chartered banks that worn or defaced coins should be redeemed under certain conditions, and to ask them to post notices to that effect.

Some discussion took place in regard to the design of the new gold coins.Mr. Fielding said that a design was being made in England showing the King's head on the obverse of the coins ... the authorized arms of Canada upon the reverse.

The New York Numismatic Club

The New York Numismatic Club held its sixteenth monthly meeting on the evening of Friday, April 8th, at the Park Avenue Hotel, with an enthusiastic attendance. President Higgins being in the chair opened the session with an exhaustive verbal report upon the work accomplished since the last meeting in furtherance of the A. N. A. Convention of 1910. He reported upon the visit of a delegation upon President Huntington and the Executive Committee of the American Numismatic Society at Audubon Park who had consented to place their beautiful building at the services of the convention for sessions, exhibits and the delivery of addresses and expressed the opinion that in view of all considerations so far encountered the most propitious date for the convening of the American Numismatic Association seemed to be the week of September 5-10, which would be suggested to the officers of the Association.

The discussion was renewed of the most convenient time for holding of club meetings and it was generally agreed that they should be timed to coincide with those Numismatic events which drew the greatest proportion of the out-of-town membership to the metropolis and that such dates should be set by the officers of the Club with great impartiality. An amendment of the by-laws was thereupon moved and seconded to be voted on at the next meeting of the Club, that the President and Vice-President be empowered to fix

A motion was adoptd that Mr. E. H. Adams and the President constitute a committee of two to enquire into ways and means of creating an official bulletin of the Club's proceedings.

Upon motion an entertainment committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Proskey, Adams and Frey, charged to arrange to mark each future meeting of the Club with the reading of an important Numismatic paper or an address by some noted exponent of Numismatic subjects.

This committee at once announced that the feature of the Club's next meeting would be a paper on the copper coinage of Connecticut, illustrated by specimens of the Granby coinage and of ore from the Granby mine, by Mr. Joseph C. Mitchelson.

Further business consisted of a definition by vote of certain duties and observances on the part of the Club's officers.

Among the numerous exhibits were a beautiful selection of choice ancient Greek silver shown by David Proskey, including an archaic obol of Aegina with the earliest form of the tortoise, a tetradrachm of Perseus of Macedon. Didrachm of Elis with head of Zeus and Eagle and another with head of Hera and Eagle, an early Athenian tetradrachm of small, thick "dump" fabric, particularly well centered, an exquisite minute hemi-obol of Athens and a Stater of Paphos, circa B. C. 600.

Mr. E. H. Adams, Numismatic expert of the N. Y. Sun, who will also henceforth conduct the Numismatic section of the Bankers and Investors' Journal, exhibited a newly discovered proof variety of the famous "British Settlements in Kentucky" token and a new method of obtaining sharp numismatic photo engraved cuts of superior character, his own invention.

The name of Mr. W. L. Fisher of Easton, Pa., was proposed for membership. Mr. Louis C. Gehring was elected a member.

Hints on Coin Collecting

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By S. SANDERS.

In collecting coins there is some wisdom necessary. If the most brutal of schoolmasters is experience there are ways of evading some of the brutality. May I venture some remraks for the benefit of beginners, and for those who feel their ignorance. I suppose there are few who have bought coins who escape the advent of the catalogues. They are one of the chief pleasures of life to the real coin-lover, and though there comes a time when they do not hold as much as they once did, it is never wise to disregard them altogether. If I had kept all the catalogues coming my way I should have had a great collection of prices and books. It is a good thing however to keep all the catalogues, and to have them arranged with something like a wise discernment of the series with which they deal. If a man will do this he will be able to inform himself on the prices of coins, and on the likelihood of his finding them when they are wanted. I have known a man who had but slight knowledge of coins become quite an expert by means of these hoarded lists. After a while it will not be necessary to look always into the catalogues; when they have been consulted with some frequency, many coins and their values will engrave themselves on the memory and not be easily forgotten. It is not always necessary to believe that the prices quoted are the standard. Prices vary, and there is a good deal to be taken off some of them. The main point, however, is to keep the catalogues, and so to have a source of information always at hand. Many interesting things will appear as the collection grows.

The second thing I would suggest is the advisability of keeping in the pocket a list of the coins, especially the die varieties one is seeking—a full and particular list. Of course I am only thinking of those that are really scarce and that are not to be met with but by great good fortune and patience. Again and again I have found the wisdom of this. I have a careless memory, and have careless forgetfulness in many things, so that I have found it necessary to have a list in every vest pocket that I wear. By this means no accidents happen and sometimes the thing one is looking for turns up in the most unlikely places, and at the most unlikely times. Every collector will snatch an hour whenever he can and go to the byways and the holes and corners of a city in hope of some store after his own heart. Also it will sometimes happen that he is pushed for time, and will be very thankful that he has not to spend precious minutes cudgelling his brains to make sure that he is not being deceived, or that he is not too sanguine. It may chance, too, that he will have given some time to looking over a large stock and have looked over it with all imaginable care, and found nothing, but just as he was giving up, and when his eye is wandering, he will light on something about which he has some remembrance, and will not be quite sure, is it the variety with bowsprit above, or below the letter A that he wants, and wants greatly. He will, at that hour of fate, thank his stars if he has his list in his pocket, and will turn to it with much comfort of soul. Now all this may seem both simple and pragmatical and it may not be necessary for those who can ever recollect. But, then, I am not one of those people, and I am telling the things I have

found useful, and that have commended themselves to me for long years. It is good to take all possible precautions against a mistake. One sometimes gets discouraged after a silly mistake or two and acquires duplicates that he does not want.

If I might give one more advice it should be this: Do not say too much to any of your friends about the coins you are wanting. There is something fascinating in the pursuit of coin hunting that becomes very perilous to the bonds of friendship; all is allowable, we say, in love or war, and this is both love and war. If you tell your interested friend what you are wanting, he will very probably want it too, and if you tell him of a good place for finds he will go there too, and go when you are not with him.

I had a friend once and there were few secrets not told between us, and we told each other our coin discoveries and ambitions, but then I never knew another man like him. He would rather let you have the coin you wanted than have it himself. It was wise to hunt with him. I have never found another man I would have taken the risks alongside. Speaking for the greater part of the collectors of whom I have had experience, I say—Do not trust your own brother, or you will surely live to rue it. The loss of a coin is a good deal; but the real loss is the loss of entire unity and the sense of injury; division has sprung up between you under the stress of your battling desires. Better not to lay your friend open to the attacks of temptation, and not at any time to be too prodigal of the ambitions that are within you. Your best friend may suddenly yield to amazing opportunities. I know this is rather second rate, from the point of view of fine morals; but fine morals have their place; one has to see to it that there is not any division between friends.

Of course the prime essential in all these things is to want coins very much, to be unable to live without them. There are some men to whom the ways and the arts of collecting coins could never be taught; they are not so born. They lack the foundation and the original faculty. Now it is no manner of use telling such men how to collect. There are men who begin to collect coins simply because some friend collects them. There are some who think it is a superior thing and implies knowledge, others collect simply with an idea of making money, picking up coins for five or ten cents and selling them for as many dollars. At the root of the matter is the root of the matter, and if this be there, there is little need for advice from any man at all.

The young coin collector will find some very interesting as well as valuable information in "Hints on Coin Collecting" by S. Sanders, published in this issue of the Numismatic Monthly. It is not necessary to possess the wealth of a Rockefeller to form an **interesting** collection of coins. The opportunities for purchasing cheap but interesting coins is unlimited and the pleasures obtained from them is worth while the trouble—it any—and expense.

NOTICE TO SUBSCIBERS.

The Numismatic Monthly is mailed out promptly between the first and third of each month. If you fail to receive your copy promptly, please notify us at once, or at least do not wait till the end of the month, as the supply of back numbers is very small and we can not guarantee to supply missing or lost copies unless request for same is made within the month of issue.

When you receive notice that your subscription has expired, please renew promptly, so that you will not miss the next number.

Extract from a Private Letter

From COMMODORE W. C. EATON, U. S. Navy.

Containing Valuable Information Regarding One of the Most Interesting and Curious Coinages of the World, Chinese Cash.

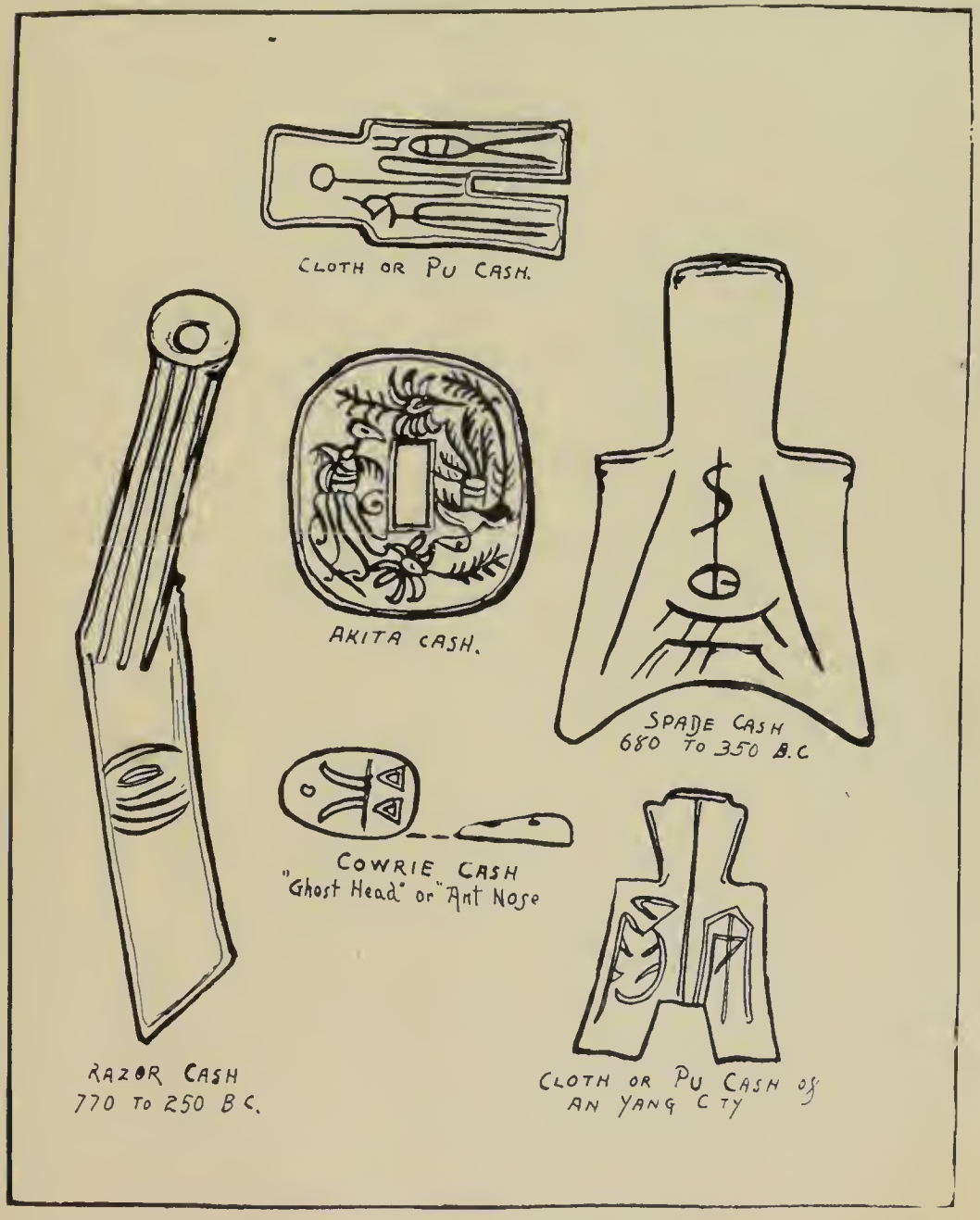
It is a wonder to me that these Chinese cash are not more popular, though I suppose it is because the average collector cannot decipher them and few dealers can do it for them; and again most of the odd shapes are so rare that few know anything about how rare they are and so are afraid to put money in them. As a matter of fact, considering their rarity, they are, when found, very cheap in America, the price asked in general being for "a" knife cash, for example, as a simple specimen of the coinage and that undeciphered, rather than for "the" knife in question which may be very rare and in fact is apt to be so as seldom are two found which are alike in their inscriptions.

To me this series of cash is the most interesting of any coinage in the world showing as it does, and as no other coinage does, the complete series of steps from barter to coinage. Commencing, as did all other nations, with bartering their tools, ornaments and smaller possessions generally, the Chinese alone conceived the idea, at least to any practical extent, of making small imitation tools, etc., to take the place of the cumbersome real things; at first simple imitations without any inscriptions followed by some single character giving the name of the place of issue up to longer and complete inscriptions giving not only the name of the place but the values as well. And so they made imitation spades, weights, dresses (Pus, though these are said by some authorities to be simply degenerates of the "weights"), knives, etc.; the knives for the army where their weapons were their natural means of abrter. The cowries (also called by the Chinese "ghost's heads" and "ant's nose") are interesting as the metallic substitute (in copper) of the cowrie shells formerly used by the Chinese in common with other nations as a currency, though bearing the inscription "pan liang," meaning "half ounce," or other like inscription (these about 600 B. C.). Then it was evidently concluded that the long knives were too cumbersome and so in Wang Mang's time (7 to 22 A. D.) they were shortened down. This, however, did not leave enough room for the large characters then used for the inscription and therefore the ring, previously added simply for stringing, was flattened out and part of the inscription put on that, the hole now being made square. Then it evidently occurred to them next: "Why have the cumbersome knife at all?" so they cut off the blade and left the cash just as it existed from that time to as late as the eighteen-nineties, though between A. D. 220 and 224 the Emperor Wu Ti temporarily abolished the cash (5 tchu pieces) and ordered the people to return to the use of grain and silk for money.

To the non-collector I find my collection of Chinese cash by far the most interesting of any coins I show them. I find very little interest exhibited in the modern collection of the coins of the world in general; a mild interest in the celebrated names of men and places on the ancient Greek and Roman, but they invariably grow enthusiastic in interest when they see my Chinese with their odd shapes and their full illustration of the changes from barter to coinage. My collection, by the way, I believe to be the finest in America, containing, as it does, some 1500 varieties, 215 of which are in these odd shapes, many not in the great British Museum collection.

For the reasons above shown, in my opinion every general collector who

can afford it, and in the present ignorance of the rarity of these coins it would not cost a fortune, should have a representative collection of these cash showing these steps, including one spade, one bridge, one Pu, one cowrie (if able to find one, though these are very rare), one knife as a representative (if not inclined to afford the various shapes), one later knife of Wang Mang, showing the blade shortened, a specimen of the round cash with square hole, and,



lastly the cash of this century without the hole and now like the coins of all other nations. The above would be a fairly representative collection and would fairly show the steps from barter to coinage and any collector possessing it would be surprised to find how it magnifies the interest of the non-collector in his collection; and after all are there not twenty non-collectors to whom we show our collections to one collector?

As to the expense of such a collection. By watching the stock of dealers

and the auction lists and buying the cash simply as cash irrespective of the particular variety (the way they are generally sold) one may pick up bargains and for a few dollars each, say from two to ten, will after a while make a pretty complete lot with the probable exception of the Cowrie, which he will probably not soon find. I have myself secured at a recent auction for a couple of dollars each bridge cash which I know are worth from twenty to twenty-five dollars and would bring that in Peking. As to the Cowries I myself purchased what I understood to be the entire lot from the only find I ever heard of during my three years' search in China, perhaps a half dozen or so, and they are worth anything that anybody should choose to pay, though if haply found in an American stock would probably be bought comparatively cheap.

The a bove estimate as to expense is founded only on the present apathy and lack of knowledge of these cash. Should interest in the collection of these cash ever be properly aroused and varieties sought for to complete collections in any particular lines, prices would soar, for it would be found that any particular cash sought for would be about as scarce as an 1804 dollar, as rarely, with one or two exceptions, are two specimens of these ancient odd shapes found with just the same inscriptions. I especially advise one with a limited purse not to attempt to make such a collection in Peking.

Also with a greater knowledge of these cash we will hear much less about the Greeks or Persians being makers of the first coins, as so commonly stated in numismatic works, and Aegina, for instance, will be obliged to take a back seat.

By the by, while on the subject of Chinese cash, the value of the cash at the time I left China in 1894 may surprise you. At that time the old style round cash with the square hole, then in circulation ,were current in Nanking at the rate of twenty-four to the Mexican dollar cent; as the Mexican at that time was worth about half the amount of our dollar (it is worth still less now), it made the cash but a forty-eighth of our cent. To reduce the iron cash of Japan to this comparison made a pretty small coin, for the Jap brass cash was theoretically the value of the Chinese brass cash, and the iron cash one-tenth of the brass cash, so its value as money was about one four hundred and eightieth of a cent. As a matter of fact they no longer circulated as money, being worth more as old iron.

Special attention is called to Mr. Anson's announcement in this issue, of his elaborate work on Ancient Green coins. This work is not a mere "book" on coins; it covers far more than may be crowded into any book. It is a work of which the author has just cause to be proud, and which should, and undoubtedly will be, appreciated by the numismatic world.

The price of this work is indeed very reasonable, especially considering that ordinary illustrated auction catalogues which contain less information and fewer illustrations than this work are priced at much higher figures.

The edition will be very limited, as the cost of production, as may be imagined, is enormous.

Having had the pleasure to examine the specimen pages and illustrations of this work, the editor feels confident that this work will always be a gratifying source of possession to any purchaser.

The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 75th monthly meeting of the above named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, on Friday evening, April 1st, Vice President F. Elmo Simpson presiding. The following twenty members were present: Messrs. Ripstra, Lewis, Mayer, Regitz, J. T. Kelly, Green, Carey, W. F. Dunham, V. M. Brand, Simpson, Leon, McKay, Michael, Wolsieffer, Baker, Sorenson, Loer, Wilson, Fowler and Dr. Bert.

Mr. V. M. Brand proposed to buy for cash 50 silver and 100 bronze Nashville medals at the rate of $2.50 and 75c each respectively, provided the dies were cancelled. On motion Mr. Brand's proposition was accepted, and so ordered.

Mr. Henry A. Fowler was elected to membership. Mr. Fowler made some pleasing remarks on Numismatics and Philately. Mr. Baker gave a select reading. Under exhibitions Dr. Bert showed his collection of European coins; Mr. Dunham his collection of Hard Times Tokens, consisting of 136 numbers according to Low, 22 of which are of great rarity; and Mr. Brand silver Japanese mint medals and gold of Venezuela.

Magazines received since last meeting were: Mehl's Monthly, Numismatic Correspondenz, Philatetic West, Spink's Circular and the Numismatist for March, and the Elder Magazine for February and March. Auction catalogues from Henry Chapman, Elder, Green, Hess, Low, Merzbacher and St. Louis Stamp and Coin Co.; and an annual report of the Chicago Historical Society.

Montreal Numismatic Society

At the regular monthly meeting of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society held April 15th, the following accessions were reported:

To the museum, from Mr. H. H. Lyman, an old wooden pillar from the American Presbyterian Church at the corner of St. James street and Victoria square. When the church was demolished some forty years ago this pillar was placed in front of "The Old Blue Bells Inn," corner of Craig and Little St. Antoine strets, where it remained until that landmark was torn down some five years ago; from Alfred Sandham, Toronto, a Roman middle bronze coin of Marcus Agrippa, and a denarius of Valerianus, also a small aluminium checque; from Hector Painchaud an aluminum advertising token; from "La Presse" Company, a brass medal and an aluminum calendar.

To the National Gallery, a framed document written by Claude de Ramezay in the Chateau de Ramezay in 1719. This is the first object relating to the builder of the Chateau, which the society has been able to secure since the museum was started. The document is an authorization to his oldest surviving son, Lagesse, to represent him at a meeting to arrange for the laying out of certain concessions in one of the de Ramezay seigniories.

Judge Sicotte reported that arrangements for the excursion to Ottawa had been definitely settled for May 14 and that tickets were now to be had from the members. The programme is, first to visit the mint on arrival at the capital, then after luncheon to visit the Archives' Department, where some of the latest accessions of most precious documents will be shown to the visitors, and at five the excursionists are to be received by the Governor-General.

The paper of the evening on "Early Canadian Almanacs," was read by the Rev. Abbe N. Dubois, principal of Jacques Cartier Normal School. The learned Abbe, since he succeeded to the late Abbe Verrault, has taken a great interest in the library of the school, and has made it the richest in rare Canadians in the city.

At the close of the paper a very cordial vote of thanks was presented to Abbe Dubois for his most instructive paper.

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By L. ANSON

The constantly recurring difficulty of identifying ancient coins has always been a stumbling-block to the numismatist, varying in accordance with his experience and knowledge and with the rarity of the coin in question.

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Besides a full description of each coin, the work gives its classification number in the catalogues of the British Museum, etc., together with many references to leading standard works; it also includes a record of recent prices in the leading auction-rooms, a general index, and a polyglot dictionary in which all technical and descriptive terms used in the work are translated in five principal European languages—a feature which extends the usefulness of the book to numismatists of every nationality.

The illustrations, which have been prepared with the utmost care, represent the majority of Greek and Graeco-Roman coins, **and exceed in number those of any other work on numismatics.**

In the compilation every authoritative book and important catalogue, British and foreign, and all other material available till the year 1909 have been used. Without presumption it may be asserted that, in its sphere, **the work stands alone for accuracy and exhaustiveness,** and will supply a need long felt by collectors, students, dealers, and numismatists generally.

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Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, JUNE, 1910 No. 6

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contribution from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

John Higley, His Famous "Granby Tokens"

Address Delivered to the New York Numismatic Club.

By JOSEPH C MITCHELSON.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

At the last meeting of our Club I was asked by the entertainment committee to read a paper on the Higley Copper Coinage. Now, as you all know, I have made no practice of preparing papers on numismatic subjects, but as I have lived within a short distance of the place where those pieces were made, off and on, for my whole life, the mines being within sight of my home, I have consented to give the members here all the information that has come my way.

Being interested in the subject probably more than any one else on account of these coins having been made in my own town, I have made inquiries from all the old residents in that section of the country in the hope of being able to add something to the very little that is known regarding them. I have really devoted a lot of my time to the subject ever since I was a boy.

The terms of Simsbury Mines and Granby Mines are apt to be confusing to the average person, and it may be well to state here just why the two terms were used. The township of Simsbury originally embraced all the territory within the present limits of Simsbury, Granby, East Granby and Canton. Granby was made a separate township fifty years after the coppers were made, and since then has been divided again.

John Higley's Famous Granby Three-Pence.

While the Higley coppers are now often referred to as Granby coppers, still this is a modern term, as the coins really were Simsbury coppers, as the townships of Granby and East Granby were created many years after the coppers were made, the mines now being located in East Granby.

Where the Higley mines are located is on the west side of the range known as Turkey Hills, which is now in East Granby. Among the early settlers this section was considered as waste lands and was held in common by the inhabitants of the township. It was here that they used to hunt deer

and turkey and beaver. The land was very mountainous, at the bottom being large swamps, which since have been drained. Nearby was a large pond. It is probable that hunters for game originally discovered the mines. This hill is the highest in the settlement, and the mines run underneath for fully a half mile.

Several companies were organized at diffcrent times to work the copper mincs. The first was composed of local land owners, and that was followed by companies from London, Holland, Boston, New York and other places. The working of these mines was never very profitable, two vessels of the early companies loaded with ore, having been lost, one captured by the French and the other sunk, and on account of being compelled to send the ore to England to be smelted.

The copper is found only in streaks here and there through the rock. There is a great deal of this ore at the present time, but the mines have not been worked since 1833, although experiments have been made within a few years, and a carload of ore was taken from there two years ago. Whether the working of the mines with modern processes would be a profitable at the present time I do not know.

Dr. Ensign of Tariffville, who was a noted doctor in his day, and the leading physician of Simsbury, and a collector of curios, got a piece of the pure smelted copper from some one connected with the mines, from which it was said the Higley coppers were made. This specimen has been in the possession of the family for years, and was given me by his son, Mr. Charles A. Ensign of Simsbury.

For a long time it was customary to send prisoners of the State to work the Simsbury mines, and in 1773 it was made a State Prison by the Legislature, and was called Newgate. When the Revolution took place the prison was used to hold English Loyalists, and Washington sent prisoners there from Cambridge. It is supposed that this bowl, and spoon, were used for porridge by the prisoners at Newgate Prison.

The reason Higley made the coppers was probably not so much to provide a currency that would be acceptable at a nearby tavern, but rather to fill a need for coin of small denomination among the colonists. At that time there was very little coin in circulation, as one can understand from this extract on "Currency and Banking in Connecticutt," written by Joseph G. Woodford, which I am sure is interesting enough to read.

It is always interesting to numismatists to know something about the man who has made a rare coin, but I regret that very little is known about the history of John Higley. But there is one thing certain, and that is we know enough to show that he was a man of means and a great deal of ability, and was anything but the drunken blacksmith that he has been at times represented to be.

John Higley, Jr., from all that can be learned, was born in March, 1673. His father, John Higley, settled in Simsbury in 1683. John being ten years old at the time. His father was a great politician, and was elected to the Connecticut legislature in 1691, serving for a good many years. In 1704, he had the title of Captain attached to his name, he belonging to the Home Guards, which had been formed for protection against the Indians.

Upon referring to the list of representatives from the town of Simsbury to the General Assembly of 1709, we also find the name of John Higley, which would make it appear that the son had also become a representative of Simsbury, each township being allowed two representatives. John Higley, Jr., also served in the assembly until 1711, and after a lapse of a good many years we again find his name among the representatives of 1731,

which was only a few years before he commenced to make the coppers that have made his name so well known.

The Higley's were one of the most important families in Connecticut. In 1695 Higley, Sr., was the largest taxpayer, having become the wealthiest man in the colony. His daughter Hannah, the sister of John Higley, Jr. was the mother of the first Governor Trumbulll of Connecticut.

From 1731 we hear nothing about Higley in particular until he began to make coppers on his own account in 1737. He had been interested in the copper mines with the different companies from 1709, or from the time when copper was first discovered. The exact time copper was first found is not definitely known, but is supposed to be about 1700. In 1707 a company was organized to work the mines, composed of local landowners, among whom it is natural to suppose was John Higley, his home being the nearest to the mines of any in the settlement, and as he was one of the leaders of the community.

A very interesting fact in connection with the working of the copper mines is that they agreed to pay the sum of ten shillings on each ton of copper produced by them, a part of which was devoted to the support of the school of Simsbury and Yale College.

It may strike the average person as somewhat peculiar that John Higley is nowadays always spoken of as a blacksmith, when we know it to be a fact that he was the son of the most prosperous man in the colony, as it is natural to think that he shared in the wealth of his father. But in those days, no matter how prominent a man may have been or how much he was worth, he was found to pursue some one of the trades. As a matter of fact the early colonists were made up of mechanics—blacksmiths, wheelrights, carpenters, shoemakers, etc.

The exact time the Higley coppers were first made is not known for a certain reason. The matter was intentionally kept a secret. The colonists had no right to smelt their ore, which was usually taken from the mines in saddlebags and boats to Saybrook, at the mouth of the Connecticut river, where it was placed aboard sailing vessels and sent to England to be smelted, although sailing vessels could have come up to Windsor, about ten miles from the mines.

Certain authorities state that Higley was regarded as a counterfeiter. This probably was not on account of he having made counterfeits of the current coin, but rather the copper threepence, which, proving beyond a doubt that he had smelted the ore, in all likelihood was what had gained for him the name of a counterfeiter. But careful search of all the existing records fails to show that he was ever prosecuted on such a charge.

The home of Higley was situated about a half mile from the mines, as shown by the map of Simbsbury of 1730, which is in the State Library at Hartford, under the charge of Mr. George Goddard, who would be glad at any time to show it to any one taking an interest in it. The foundation walls of the old home are still standing and the foundation of the chimney, which occupied about two-thirds of the cellar.

There are no descendants of the family by the name of Higley within the present limits of the town of Simsbury as far as I know, but there are some in the town of Canton, which is a part of the original Simsbury.

I have known every inhabitant of the town of Simsbury, within three miles of the mines, from early childhood up to the time I was twenty-one, but I never met a single person who knew anything about the Higley coppers with one exception, Eno Victs, who lived near the mines, and was a prosperous farmer. A few

years ago he was to buy one of the coppers from a man in Suffield for something like $20 or $25, but the owner changed his mind about selling. A lawsuit took place, which cost Viets about $100 and he did not get the coin after all.

This was the only Higley copper I ever heard of in that part of the country when I was a young man, with the exception of the one in the Athenaeum at Hartford.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Paper Money Collecting

By GEORGE PFLUMER.

Although the late Herr L. Clericus of Magdeburg, well-known as an enthusiastic collector, had even in 1880, by publishing various highly interesting articles in different journals, drawn public attention to the interest attached to collections of paper-money and the fact that this branch of Numismatics, representing monuments of the highest importance of bygone days from an historical point of view, might with all justification be called the handmaid of the science, yet, notwithstanding, very few appeared to take an interest in collections of this kind.

Even now there are but few collections which are of any magnitude or are scientifically arranged, or upon which patience and industry have been carefully bestowed.

Therefore, in order to bring collectors in closer touch with each other and in order to facilitate mutual exchange, it would seem desirable to form an association, not only to guard the interests of collectors, but also to institute an active propaganda in a field which has up to now, received only too little attention.

In this way, much that would be of interest would come to the notice of collectors, and undoubtedly the interest in this question taken by the Trade, would be enlivened thereby.

If we consider the notes emitted by Law in the reign of Louis XV, the assignats under Louis XVI, the other paper-moneys (Bons de Communes) of the Revolution, of Pichegru's invasion of Holland, of the different revolutions in Poland; the siege-moneys of Italy and Hungary during the time of Garibaldi and Kossuth; the blockade-notes of Maintz, Colberg and of Erfurt; further, the Italian and Austrian assistance- money of 1848 and 1870; the old American moneys under the English government of the 18th Century, and of the war of 1864, etc., all notes of the various states and banks of Germany up to 1875; lastly all the small assistance money (Vales) of the South American Republics, of Spain, of Portugal, etc., and all those of other states which cannot be enumerated here, then only will it be possible to understand not only how interesting, but also how important (considered from the artistice historical standpoint) such a collection may become.

Therefore should this suggestion meet with afavorable reception by the fraternity of paper-money collectors, I should be delighted to receive communications from them, which would enable an exchange of views on the subject of the above proposed association.

GEORGE PFLUMER,
Hameln, Germany.

Programme of The American Numismatic Association Convention of 1910

New York Numismatic Club, American Numismatic Society and Enthusiastic Individuals Combine to Secure Splendid Welcome for Visitors. Programme Full of Good Cheer, Varied Events and Solid Numismatic Entertainment.

The great A. N. A. Convention of 1910 will be here none to soon for those enthusiastic members who are discussing it in every corner of the great North American Continent. Hitherto we have had to be content for details, with the few facts which have leaked out in reports or discussions at New York Numismatic Club meetings, but the official programme which has now been approved by the Club and commended by leading spirits of the A. N. A. is now published and will be carried out as nearly in conformity with the lines laid down as circumstances render possible.

The headquarters selected in the Metropolis are nothing short of ideal. To begin with. the new building of the American Numismatic Society which has been placed at the disposition of the Convention for the first week in September is splendidly situated on a height overlooking the Hudson and is one of a group forming three sides of a stately campus, the other edifices being those of the Hispanic Society of America, full of the relics of the Conquistadors and of the American Geographical Society. The whole series of buildings together with their stately terraces, sweeping stairways, carven balustrades and towering bronze gateways, forming a picture which one must travel to the great distant art centers of the world to duplicate.

The Park Avenue Hotel which has been selected as official headquarters, is situated as shown in accompanying illustration, at the juncture of Park Avenue with 33rd and 34th Streets, in close proximity to both the Grand Central Depot and the new Pennsylvania Railroad Depot. It is a hotel unique of its kind in this city. having been planned as the caprice of a multi-millionaire merchant who insisted on its principal feature being a huge interior tropical garden where throughout the summer tinkling fountains cool the breezes wafted through waving palms and masses of fragrant ferns and flowers. There are accommodations at the Park Avenue Hotel for the man of a million who would be at home in the Waldorf or the St. Regis, yet it is noteworthy that the management are specializing in "popular prices," so that the "Park Avenue" may be enjoyed by every member who attends the Convention with the assurance that no expedient of either convenience or economy need call him elsewhere. For instance. a flat rate for rooms of $1.50 per diem is made to Convention visitors. It is safe to say that the equivalent could not be obtained at triple the price at any other hotel in New York.

Connection between the Park Avenue Hotel and the Numismatic Society building is direct. almost from door to door by the Broadway branch of the Subway. a quarter of an hour's flash through from 33rd Street to 151st street.

The programme as arranged has been designed to keep the membership together in closest union during the entire week, th most desirable condition which could exist. not from any compulsion but because every moment will be made so interesting and every scheduled event so well worth attendance

The American Numismatic Society Building

The only Exclusive Numismatic Museum in the world.

Where the business sessions and exhibitions of the American Numismatic Association Convention will be held

September 5-10, 1910.

that the member will hesitate to miss it. There are "Seeing New York" features embodied which will give plenty of opportunity for close inspection of the metropolis on both land and water and the series of dinners, lunches, etc., outside of the regular invitation banquets, which are provided to be enjoyed together, will be arranged so that no more thoroughly delightful repasts at less expense could be found by the individual by any amount of personal skirmishing.

The individual member will be free to side-step absolutely any feature he feels compelled or drawn to avoid for an afternoon of his own but in very few cases will their freedom be availed of and the less it is the greater will be the success of Convention week.

The First Day.

At ten o'clock on Monday morning, September 5th, which by the way is "labor day," will witness the general registration of members at the Park

Headquarters of the American Numismatic Association Convention, New York, Sept. 5-10, 1910.

Avenue Hotel, the distribution of programmes, badges and tickets and the entering upon their duties of committees charged with the comfort of visitors.

At noon the hotel management will have arranged a dainty New England "Yankee" lunch for the number electing to lunch together, after which the first departure will be made by subway for the American Numismatic Society's building.

The first afternoon's work will be in the nature of preparation for the morrow. The officers of the A. N. A. will meet for their official business in committee rooms assigned to them and exhibitors of coins, paper money, etc., will be allotted the strong, heavy plate glass covered and double locked show cases in which their exhibits may remain in view during the entire course of the convention, under guard night and day. One of the most valuable features of the convention, now for the first time enjoyed. In the evening it will be arranged so that convention guests may dine together

under specially favorable conditions at the famous Caft Martin, New York's leading French Restaurant, after which they will be at liberty to inspect "the great white way," at leisure, or gather at the hotel for a smoker prolonged at will.

Second Day.

The Convention will be opened in the Society Building's great hall at precisely ten o'clock with a full attendance of the A. N. A. delegates, the New York Numismatic Club and members of the American Numismatic Society to whom a special call will be issued to join in the welcome. The convention being declared open by President Henderson, addresses of welcome will be made in turn by an official representative of the City of New York, an officer

The Tropical Court of the Park Avenue Hotel, where Convention visitors will enjoy many pleasant meals in the cool shade.

of the Society and the President of the New York Numismatic Club, replied to in turn by the President of the A. N. A.

After the reading of several interesting papers on Numismatic topics the convention will adjourn for a typical "German Fatherland" lunch at the Kaiserhof Rathskeller on the corner of 39th street and Broadway. From here, at 2 p. m. the visitors will be conveyed in sightseeing automobiles on a tour of historical upper Manhattan, visiting Central Park, the Coin Cabinet of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Grant's tomb, Riverside Drive, etc., returning in time to partake at six o'clock of a "Roman dinner" tendered by the A. N. S. members of the Metropolitan District to their brethren from a distance at a prominent Italian Restaurant. From 9 o'clock insomnia sufferers will be invited to forgether at Keen's Old English Chop House for a smoke and talk.

Third Day.

Wednesday, September 7th, will be known as "Charter Day," because of the consummation of important plans which are now being vigorously worked

upon which will either bring the A. N. A. fully or very close to the long cherished dream of incorporation as a legally constituted body. Mr. Higgins, who is Chairman of the Committee on Incorporation of the A. N. A., is at present unable to state definitely just what will take place, as the plan when matured must be indorsed by the officers of the A. N. A., but it is already understood that a most decisive step in the direction of incorporation will make this a memorable day in the history of the American Numismatic Association.

The morning session will be devoted to inspection of members' coins and of the society's splendid cabinets, a function to which the general public may be admitted or at least members' guests. The most propitious moment of the day will be taken advantage of to photograph the convention with the Society building as a background.

After luneh at a nearby resort a large united gathering will assemble to witness official action regarding the charter of the Association and listen to an appreciation of the life work of Dr. George F. Heath, by one of his old time associates in the upbuilding of the A. N. A., to be followed by an address on the inspiring subject of the "Development of Medallic Art," by the Hon. Charles de Kay, late U. S. Consul General at Berlin, President of the "Society of Friends of the Medal." Following a "Colonial" dinner at a nearby resort a reeeption will be held in the Hispanic Society Building, where the art treasures will be explained by the curator, Dr. Martin. During the evening the grounds will be illuminated, the numismatic exhibitions available for inspeetion and visitors entertained upon the spacious lawns.

Fourth Day.

The morning of Thursday, September fourth, will be spent in a prolonged business session at the American Numismatie Society building during whieh future plans for the benefit of the Assoeiation, the eonvention of the following year and current business will be discharged. Honorary members will also be nominated and numismatic papers read. At 12:30 the convention visitors will partake in company of a typical Spanish lunch in one of the celebrated down-town resorts of that nationality, after which the silver-tongued Mr. D. Macon Webster will conduct them on a tour of the historic points of lower New York, associated with the early history of the eity, Washington and the Revolution, etc. The American Banknote Company, the Sub-Treasury and Frances' Tavern where the members will sign the big roster, there preserved.

At six o'cloek will be made the startling transfer of "From the Occident to the Orient in one minute," which means a characteristie Imperial Chinese banquet at the celebrated Tuxedo Restaurant in Chatham Square, with attendant Numismatie nightmare, tendered by the New York Numismatic Club to the Convention.

Fifth Day.

Friday will be devoted to the final business session and to the announcement of eleetion returns by the committee appointed to open and eount the sealed ballots under the new election system whieh becomes operative for the first time. Formal official announeements will be followed by adjournment until next year.

At noon following a "British" luncheon, probably at Keens' Chop House, the Convention will assemble at the Park Avenue Hotel for the greatest half day auction of the year, which will be made up of a moderate number of lots submitted by dealers belonging to the A. N. A. under such eireum-

stances that no one but the owners and the cataloguer, who is pledged to discretion, will know who the various coins belong to.

At 6 p. m. Convention visitors will leave for a trip down New York Harbor and Bay to a good old fashioned "shore" dinner at Coney Island which will be properly stewarded in advance by the A. N. A.'s most prominent expert on clam-bakes—Mr. E. H. Adams.

If the foregoing is not deemed to possess the "drawing" powers of a forty-horse power mustard plaster to lure A. N. A. members to Gotham next September when business men's excursion rates are obtainable on most roads then we shall take it that nothing short of paradise possesses attractions for the hard-to-please coin-collector.

A. N. A. Convention Announcement

Members of the American Numismatic Association who propose taking part in the Convention are earnestly requested to, at the earliest possible date, communicate, even if only by post-card, with both Secretary Duffield and with Mr. D. Macon Webster, 25 Broad Street, New York City, expressing in the latter case any requests for special information, accommodation required, etc.

Intending exhibtors, of whom it is hoped there will be as many as possible, in view of superior accommodations and facilities afforded, will please write as soon as possible to Dr. J. M. Henderson, 13½ East State St., Columbus, Ohio.

A. N. A. members able to contribute papers on the subjects of their special hobbies, to be read at the convention and afterwards be printed as part of the Convention proceedings, are earnestly invited to communicate with Mr. Edgar H. Adams, 40 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dealers desirous of entering lots of coins for the A. N. A. Convention sale of Friday, September 9th, are requested to get at once into communication with Mr. Daniel R. Kennedy, 255 West 22nd Street, N. Y. It is well understood that Mr. Kennedy will preserve the strictest confidence in keeping with the rules of this sale in which no owners' names will be disclosed. Mr. Kennedy will embody owners' catalogues of own lots in sale catalogue. Previous show of coins will be provided for later.

D. MACON WEBSTER, Chairman,
N. Y. N. C. Entertainment Committee.

THE ROYAL MAUNDAY MONEY

The distribution of the Royal Maunday money takes place on "Maunday" Thursday, the day before Good Friday. The coinage of these pieces dates from Charles II., 1661, and continues down to his late Majesty, Edward VIII.

The Royal Maundy Money was distributed in Westminister Abbey at Easter to sixty-nine men and sixty-nine women, the number of each sex corresponding with the age of the king. Each man received £2 5s clothing allowance, and each woman £1 5s.; and all were given red purses, each containing £2 10s., and white purses, containing as many pence as the king is years of age, given in silver pennies, twopences, threepences and fourpences. The Minor Bounty, Discretionary Bounty and Royal Gate Alms were distributed at the Royal Almonary, St. James' Palace, to about 800 aged or disabled men and women.

Advanced Numismatic Work

By J. KEPPEL HOPKINS.

The energetic Presidentof the New York Numismatic Club must certainly be credited with a many-sidedness which it falls to the lot of few Americans to attain.

Aside from his administrative work in connection with our popular Empire City Coin Collectors' organization and his many contributions to the Numismatic press, he has found time to enter upon a completely new line of Numismatic development.

The Hudson-Fulton dollar-sized gold tokens, which were published during the celebration in New York, have been everywhere recognized as the most artistic pieces of their character ever coined in the United States. The exquisite modeling of Monsieur Roine is of course responsible for their great beauty, for as the actor may make or mar an author's finest part, so a modeller may enhance or diminish the artistic quality of the

FRANK C. HIGGINS

This consists of the composition, or "delineation," as the art-world calls it, of tokens, pattern coins and medals which he has been providing since the Montreal Convention with surprising rapidity, having now to his credit at least five already in the hands of the public, several now being struck by the Medallic Art Company of New York, and still others decided upon and only awaiting the clearing out of the way of work already in hand.

flat design given into his hands.

Mr. Higgins is, though self-taught, an unusually capable draughtsman, and comparison of his original drawings with the sculptor's models will show how faithfully the latter has followed his inspiration.

The full beauty of the Hendrick Hudson "daalder" has only been made apparent by its appearance in silver enlarged from the gold dollar size to forty millimeters.

Following these charming pattern coins, each of which bear a minute "H," Mr. Higgins in the heat of the first few days of the Cook and Peary discovery, composed several storecards bearing on the claims of the rival North Pole discoveries, each of which is signed "F. C. H." These,

while hastily produced in order to greet the return of the explorers to American soil, take Numismatic rank by reason of priority as the first medals struck in honor of either discoverer.

Encouraged by the success, both artistic and popular, of the Hudson-Fulton pieces, Mr. Elder invited Mr. Higgins to execute for him an Irish-American pattern dollar or "crown"

token in silver of the usual dollar size, the which will very shortly be issued to the Numismatic world.

The result which has been delightfully modelled by the noted sculptor, John S. Gelert of New York, from Mr. Higgins' carefully executed drawing, shows the grim old Hibernian monarch facing, in winged helmet, shield and corselet of mail, his white hair and beard streaming in the wind and his amble c'oak fastened at the shoulder by the historic "Tara" brooch.

The king grasps a short leaf-bladed sword of the "iron age" in his brawny forearm and looks ready to burst from the obverse of the coin in fierce onslaught on Erin's foes. The inscription surrounding in ancient Irish reads: BRIAN BOROIME ARCH-KING OF ERIN, with the dates of the battle of Contarf, at which the poet sings:

"Brian Boroo at the Boyne Water
Defeated the Danes with terrible slaughter.
At the Boyne Water he defeated the Danes,
And when he was through, he ate their remains."

and the date of issue, 1014-1910.

On the reverse is an exquisite grouping of Irish emblems arranged in a shamrock leaf pattern and showing clearly without the slightest crowding, no less than eight distinct national symobls—the harp, upon which the American Eagle with out-

stretched wings is poised; the sunburst, which antedates the harp as the national emblem; the Abbey, Round Tower, Celtic Cross, reclining Wolfhound and the "bloody hand of Ulster." The Celtic inscription surrounding reads, "THE IRISH PEOPLE OF AMERICA—OUR CROWN." Mr. Higgins' signature "H," appears below the bust on the obverse.

Mr. Higgins' most important achievement, however, is best described in the words of the New York Herald, which says:

"Through Frank C. Higgins, President of the New York Numismatic Club, there is given to all Americans who desire to perpetuate the memory of the achievements of themselves or their ancestors the news that there

has been established a system of coinage by the use of which this memory may be made to last as long as a silver coin endures. The first family in the United States to become the possessor of "a family dollar" is the Evans family and the first "family dollar" struck has been sent to Rear Admiral Evans.

The idea which is here applied for the first time in this country is an adaptation of the idea of the denarius used, for instance by Caius Allus, who dwelt in Rome B. C. 50, and by many other Romans before and after his time. Realizing that heirlooms like grandfathers' clocks may be destroyed by fire and that family timepieces may fall into unworthy hands, Mr. Higgins, one of whose ancestors was Major William Minor Evans, who fought in the war of 1812, has designed what he calls the "Evans family dollar." It is the first in a series of "family dollars," or "portrait medals" which will be designed for other families.

The possibilities of the new coinage seem to be boundless. Those persons whose family trees have borne fruit of which the contemporaneous persons are proud may link their own names to the names of the family heroes by having their names engraved on the medal which carries to posterity the record of the virtues of him who has gone before. Each "family dollar" will bear the likeness of the founder of the house and a recital of the principal fields of activity in which his descendants have become best known. The medals are of the size and weight of the United States silver dollar. The space on the reverse which is left for the name of that member of the family who first uses the "family dollar," is large enough to carry an ordinarily long name.

Mr. Higgins says that there is a peculiar appropriateness in the fact that the Evans family has the first dollar, because a member of that family, the late Sir John Evans, who died recently, had been since 1874 president of the Royal Numismatic Society of Great Britain, with which organization he had been connected since 1854."

The New Ceylon Nickel Coin

We have received the following cutting out of a local newspaper, from a correspondent in Ceylon, respecting the new minor currency for the island:

Not the least of the boons which the New Year will bring to Ceylon is the new nickel coin. It is one in the credit of which we can claim some share, as we were, we believe, the first to voice the dissastisfaction eomed by the large class of servants, peons, and coolies in this country. The uncomfortable possessor of it has, as a rule, been only too glad of an excuse to get rid of the old five-cent piece to the first comer, and in this way a lot of what Mr. Lloyd-George would call unearned increment went into numerous undeserving pockets, the effect probably being somewhat demoralizing. The nickel piece will also hit those who are

with the ugly and ponderous five-cent copper "blob" and to advocate the substitution of a smaller and handier coin. The opposition to the reform, and the delay in conceding it, have been accountable only by the innate conservatism of bureaueraey, and we venture to say that, after a year's experience, we shall wonder more than ever why the old copper five-cent piece was suffered so long. The new coin will be a patent factor on the side of economy where Europeans are concerned, and for that very reason the change will perhaps not be welcome to the native population. The latter are largely dependent on gratituities by usurping the position hitherto occupied by the ten cent piece as the recognized pourboire; but there will be some compensation in the faet that, with a reasonable coin handy a good many tips will be given whieh were withheld before. In other respects the most that ean be claimed for the new coin, as our readers ean see, is that it is small and neat. It certainly is not very artistic. It will be obtainable in January at the banks and at the treasury.

—Spink's Numismatic Circular

COMMUNICATIONS.

Oakland, Cal., May 27, 1910.

Editor Mehl's Numismatic Monthly:

More than fifty years of the study of history has made me very skeptical in regard to many statements made by even noted historians. This being the case, it is my custom when making a statement, the truth of which may be doubted, to prefaee it with that little, but very important, word IF. So when writing of Nero and Octavia in my article on "Human Hair as Seen on Roman Coins," in your April number, I was very particular to express my doubts by the use of the word IF. This fact seems to have been overlooked by the learned President of the New York Numismatic Club, and his statement (see page 68) puts me in a false light in regard to the incestous marriage of Nero and Octavia. Addison was a very careful writer, but one cannot say as much for Seneca, who, though he lived during part of Nero's reign, was often on the fence, ready to jump either side. The quotation is from Addison's Essay on Medals. Thanking you in advance for putting me right before the Numismatic fraternity, I am, yours for truth, F. A. HASSLER, M. D., Ph. D.

New York Numismatic Club

The eighteenth regular monthly meeting of the New York Numismatic Club assembled on Friday evening, May 13th, at the Park Avenue Hotel, at half past seven o'clock, President Higgins in the chair.

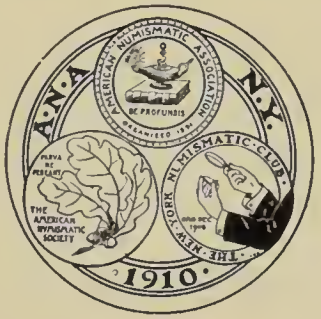
The meeting opened with the reading and extensive discussion of the elaborate programme for the entertainment of the American Numismatic Association in September next, which had already been passed upon by the club's entertainment committee.

After a careful review of each item and detailed explanation of various ways and means which would be adopted to secure its successful working out, the programme was approved by a rising vote of the club.

An official badge for attendants upon the convention, designed by President Higgins, was exhibited and approved. It consists of the official seal of the A. N. A. supported by those of the A. N. S. and the N. Y. N. C. in a lucky trefoil surrounded by A. N. A.—N. Y.—1910 It will be printed in gold on a white ground and the pendant rosette will be red, white and blue, the tri-color common to America, France and Britain as represented by the membership.

Messrs. Adams, Frey and Webster were appointed a committee to settle the matter of an annual Club medal to commence with one commemorative of the Convention.

The amendment to the by-laws proposed at the last meeting by which the President is in future empowered to call the monthly meetings of the



Official Badge of A. N. A. Convention.

club at the most favorable date for large attendance instead of a fixed second Friday as heretofore, was voted in the affirmative.

Mr. W. L. Fisher of Easton, Pa., was elected to membership.

Among the many interesting and instructive exhibits by members were one of newly discovered counterfeits of the rare Bout de l'Isle bridge tokens by Mr. E. H. Adams. Mr. Frey presented a well preserved Saxon "Sceat," Mr. Wayte Raymond exhibited a Macedonian stater of Philip II with long hair, an excessively rare variety, a rare half stater and twelfth staters of the same monarch, a Syracusan stater of Agathocles, Syrian stater of Antiochus

IV, Roman aureus of Emp. Septimus Severus, gold medallion of Constantinus I and a fine example of the splendid Syracusan Dekadrachm signed by Evaneitos.

President Higgins exhibited the plaster cast of the models of Monsieur J. E. Roine of his design for a Medal of Honor to be issued by the publishers of the Dry Goods Economist in this city. The principal motif is that of Mercury, god of merchants, exhibiting a roll of gauze torn from the "milky way" to the delighted eyes of Juno. The reverse is a series of garlanded cartouches presents the principal virtues of the successful modern merchandiser.

The event of the evening consisted in an address, carefully prepared and most entertainingly delivered on the subject of John Higley, his famous "Granby" tokens and the mines in Connecticut from which the copper was taken, by Joseph C. Mitchelson.

Mr. Mitchelson brought, besides his lecture a wealth of bibliography on his subject from which he read relative passages and thoughtfully distributed specimens of Granby copper ore from Higleys mine among members of the club, leaving a supply for visitors to the Convention desiring them, with the club's secretary.

Mr. Mitchelson was warmly felicitated and received a rising vote of thanks. DANIEL R. KENNEDY, Secretary.

The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 76th monthly meeting of the above named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, May 6th, President Harry F. Williams presiding. The following twenty members were present: Messrs. Ripstra, Mayer, J. T. Kelly, Green, Verkler, Carey, W. F. Dunham, V. M. Brand, Brenner, Simpson, Excell, Leon, Michael, Jochem, Baker, Sorensen, Williams, Loer, Rau and Wilson.

A bronze medal of Dr. Daniel G. Brinton was received from the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, issued in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Society. Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer presented a number of numismatic pamphlets.

Messrs. C. E. Morrill and Leo Kahn were elected to membership.

Under Exhibtions Mr. V. M. Brand showed a part of his collection of the silver coins of Brunswick and Luneberg, consisting of four 1½ thaler, three 2 thaler, four 3 thaler, five 4 thaler, four 5 thaler, two 6 thaler and three 10 thaler pieces. Mr. W. F. Dunham showed his collection of war medals.

Magazines received since last meeting were: Philatelic West, Numismaische Verkehr and Spink's Circular for April, and Mehl's Monthly for April and May; auction catalogs from Cahn, Chicago Coin Co., Egger Bros., Elder, Green, Hirsch (2), Low and Steigerwalt; with fixed prices from Bondeau, Kube and Major; and a priced catalog from Low.

Mr. Simpson was present as a visitor.

Adjourned to meet June 3rd, 1910. BEN G. GREEN, Secretary.

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Accounts For Sale

We have been unable to obtain settlement for coins purchased by the following parties, and offer for sale their accounts. Amount and length of time account is standing furnished upon request.

A. E. Way, Toronto, Ont., Canada.
John A. Seltzer, Lebanon, Pa.
Geo. E. Walker, Holdenville, Okla.
Duquesne Stamp Co., Pittsburg, Pa.
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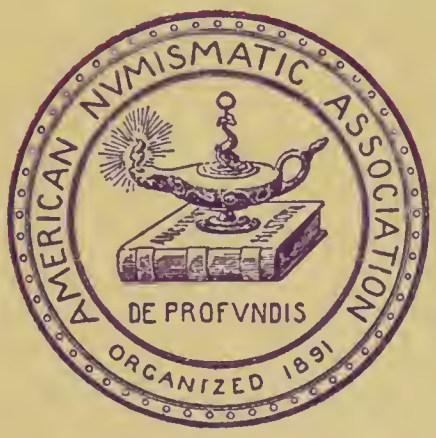
Volume 3 Whole Number 31 Number 7

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

JULY, 1910

"ON TO NEW YORK"



AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, SEPTEMBER 5-10, 1910

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EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY

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NUMISMATIST **FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

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1848 P. Mint. Fine. Rare	5.00
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Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, JULY, 1910 No. 7

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

The Coinage of Rome

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By S. SANDERS

FIRST AE. OR LARGEST BRONZE COIN OF VESPASIAN. 69-79 A. D.
Issued to commemorate the conquering of Judaea.
Weeping Judaea under palm tree.

The Roman Imperial coins, in addition to their individual characters and interest, possess a general historical interest, in consequence of being for the most part struck to commemorate remarkable events. The difficulties of history are consequently cleared up by these contemporary records, which are so complete until the time of Constantine, that histories may be compiled from them.

They form the most authentic data in the Roman annals, the years of the consular and tribunitian offices held by the emperors, appearing in the obverse; and on the reverse, representations of the events whose dates are expressed on the other side.

The coins of Trajan, Hadrian and the Antonines, are remarkable for this, and for the accurate data which are thereby supplied to history, by which the mistakes of chroniclers are often corrected.

Among the description of events commemorated are the departure of emperors on expeditions; their successes and returns; their munificence to provinces wasted by famine visits to the provinces and benefits conferred during such visits, etc., as in the case of Hadrian's visit to Britain, A. D. 121.

Conquered provinces are represented in a pleasing and often poetical manner, as in the weeping "Judea Capta" of the coins of Vespasian and Titus; and universal peace is symbolized by the closed temple of Janus, on the coins of Nero.

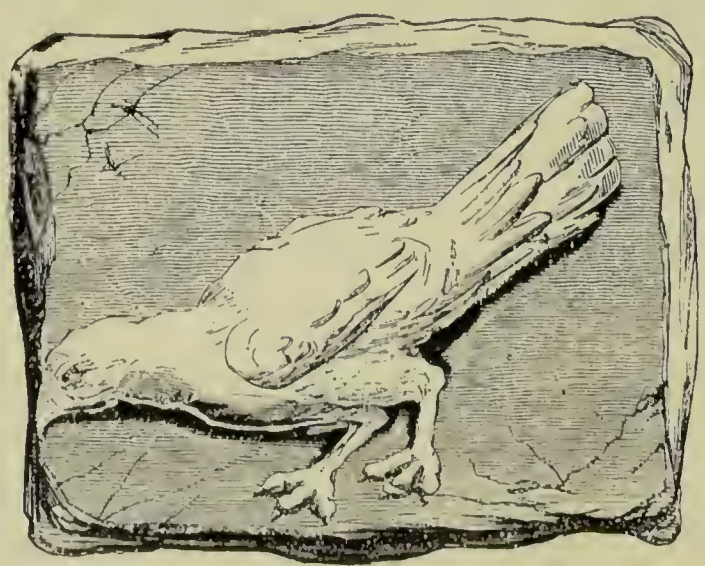
The deaths and consecrations of emperors and empresses are depicted, and their virtues and other attributes beautifully personified. Happiness, hope, abundance, security, piety, modesty, are poetically represented together with the different countries of the world, and the provinces of the Empire.

Even naturalists may derive advantage from the study of these coins —those struck on the occasion of the secular games, as the coins of Philip, representing various animals, some of

ROMAN AS GRAVE,
One of the largest of Ancient Coins.

which appear to be now unknown. Accurate portraits of persons of historical eminence are represented, so that busts may be refered to their owners by the agency of coins, together with representations of buildings now in ruins, as they originally stood—as triumphal arches, temples, etc., so that the poet, the painter, the sculptor, and the architect, derive no less advantage from the study than the historian.

The Roman coinage appears to have originated in the As, a copper piece weighing twelve ounces. The pieces of the most common occurance have on their obverse the double head of Janus, and on the reverse the prow of a ship. Others have on them the head of Roma, and on the reverse



ROMAN AS, IN THE PRIMITIVE SQUARE FORM.
Issued about 578 B. C. One of the very earliest of the world's coins, and of great rarity. Only a very few specimens known.

a Bull, with the word, Roma. The divisions of as As, were the semis, or half of six ounces, marked S; the triens of four; the quadrans of three; the sextans of two; and the unica of one ounce. These have on them dots or pellets expressing the number of ounces contained in them individually. There were also multiples of

Uncia, with Minerva.

the As, as high as the decussis, or piece of ten asses, this always with the same head and the sign X (ten asses).

The As and its parts originally weighed as much as was expressed upon them; but they gradually decreased in weight, until, at the time of the second Punic war, the As was reduced to only half an ounce. As these heavy pieces must have been very inconvenient in their use before their reduction in weight, silver appears to have been soon substituted for them, and the denarius or silver piece originally of the value of ten asses, and afterwards of sixteen, became the most common representative of value; this piece is frequently marked X. The quinarius, which was half the value of the denarius, and marked V, to show it was of the value of five asses, also occurs. The silver Sestertius, or fourth of a denarius, which disappeared at the close of the Republic nevertheless always remained as the unit of account, its place being taken by the bronze sestertius. Thus a person was said to have died worth so many sesterces. While it is true that coins of Ancient Rome are among the most interesting and the most valuable of historical records, it is a matter of regret that metallic and enduring memorials are now confined to medals struck to commemorate some particular event, whose number is limited and which obtain little circulation among the multitude.

Why should we not preserve, as of old, specimens of beautiful architecture, the originals of which time may not spare Why not exhibit the progress of scientific discovery—the march of geographical knowledge—the conquests of commerce and civil-

The Semis, when the weight was reduced.

ization? The mint of the Augustan Age has been well called the seat of Roman genius; why should not the mints of our country be employed and the genius of our republic be installed where its works would assuredly be imperishable.

"I cannot let my name be dropped from your list. I enclose $1.00 for two years' subscription."

J. B. Temple.

"I congratulate you upon your masterly presentation, in the June issue of the Monthly, of what may be expected to be done at the September meeting of the A. N. A."

Dr. H. R. Storer.

Dr. H. R. Storer of Newport, R. I., advises us that he may send for exhibition to the A. N. A. Convention a fine selection of medals and tokens of Rhode Island. He is particularly anxious to hear from anyone who possesses or knows of anything of this kind, as he is endeavoring to perfect the list of these interesting pieces.

Pre-Convention Briefs

The Stewards of the Convention Entertainment will be Daniel R. Kennedy, Secretary N. Y. N. C., Charles L. Podhadjski, the ever welcome, smiling "Charles" of the Elder and Low sales whom everybody likes and J. Keppel Hopkins, a globe trotting Irish journalist who was the life long confidant of the late Charles S. Parnell. A trio of the three heartiest laughs in New York.

Arrangements are being perfected to have the beautiful medal commemmorative of the Convention, designed by President Higgins and approved by the Medal Committee of the New York Numismatic Club, struck in the presence of the Convention visitors during the week in New York.

Chinatown has caught the infection and the almond eyed manager of the Tuxedo Restaurant has christened his latest gastronomic chef d'oeuvre "Chop Suey **a la Mei Kwok lao ku tsien Tong.**"

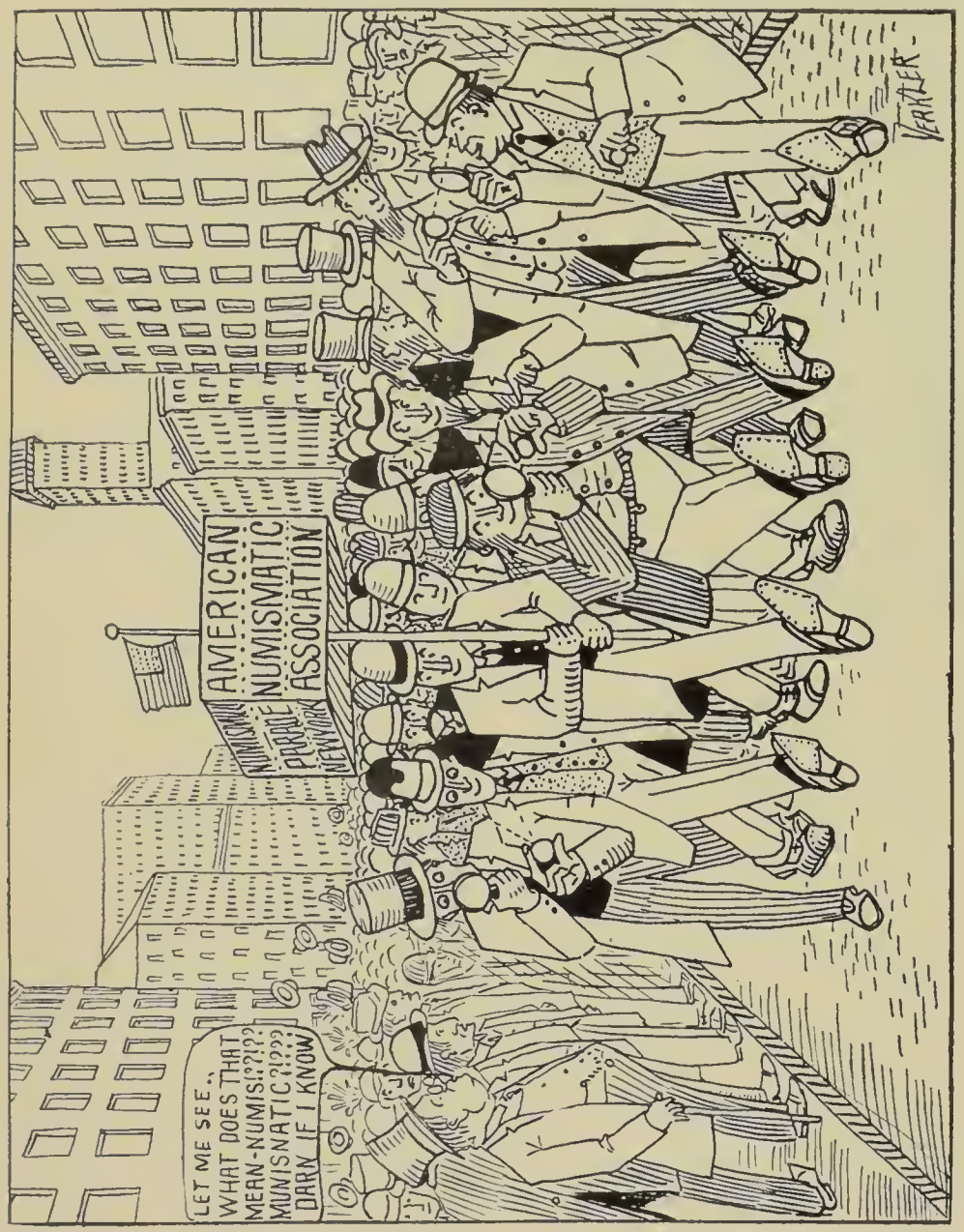
The hall in which the Roman dinner tendered the visitors by New York A. N. A. members is decorated with a series of alcoves like those on what is called a "scenic railway," lighted up from within so that one seems to be looking from broad balconies over scenes in the Roman Forum, the ruins of Pompeii, the Bay of Naples, etc.

In riding about town sight seeing visitors will be in open vehicles with the exception of two or three who will be conveyed in close carriages between guards armed to the teeth. These will be he incorrigible practical jokers of past conventions.

This convention will be the most scientifically Numismatic gathering which has ever assembled in America. Numismatic treasures estimated at one million dollars in value will be inspected by the visitors.

The rush after places in the Catalogue for that Convention Sale is a wonder. Kennedy, whose address is 255 West 92nd Street, N. Y., and not in the heart of the Tenderloin where

D. MACON WEBSTER,
Chairman of the Entertainment Committee and Historical Cicerone to Convention Visitors.



"ON TO NEW YORK."

A Suggestion for a Numismatic Parade.

Drawn for Mehl's Numismatic Monthly by E. C. Verkler.

a cruel editor landed him last month, is receiving many reservations from all the leading American dealers.

The talks on coin and medal subjects at the Convention will be by far the most interesting ever prepared for such an event. Several great experts will favor with addresses.

EDGAR H. ADAMS,
One of the Cleverest Numismatic Writers in America. Prince of Good Fellows and N. Y. N. C. Treasurer.

Chairman Webster will be a new one to many old timers from outside New York but he is a "bird." He was discovered by the intrepid explorer Albert R. Frey some years ago when Frey used to be dyspeptic and a misanthrope. He has kept Frey laughing so continuously for the last five years that the ex-President of the A. N. A. is now fat and gives away money to anybody who wants it. The convention can bring extra waistcoat buttons with it.

Treasurer Edgar H. Adams, who swims like Annette Kellerman and who can smell out concealed American pattern rarities like those wizards who locate well sites with a divining twig is also a disciple of Lucullus whom it is a pleasure to meet at meal time. Chickens refuse to lay eggs, turkeys take to the woods and oysters scurry to the depths of the sea as Adams, their certain finish, approaches.

A. R. Frey is going to lecture on "The Swastika on Elephant Ducats in my collection."

There will be a Convention exhibit of rare and curious old time and exotic Numismatic books.

Convention visitors who give an early tip, as requested last month, to the entertainment committee can get all kinds of advance information and have their wants looked after as carefully as if they were on the spot.

The members of the American Numismatic Society will probably convene on several of the more important occasions during convention week, to swell the attendance, and many individuals among them will participate in all the festivities.

Furthermore—"On to New York."

The Exergue.

POPULAR COINS.

The 1856 flying eagle cent seems to be as popular as ever. Twenty-four bidders endeavored to get the one in Mehl's sale of June 11th. It was a fine specimen, and sold for $6.00. The perfect specimens of this coin are again selling for high prices.

Another coin that is very much in demand just now ,and which promises to greatly increase in value from time to time, is the $4.00 gold piece or "Stella." Only a few years ago proof specimens of this coin could be purchased for about $40.00 to $50.00, while now they are selling at about $100.00. Fourteen bids were received for the one offered in Mehl's last sale. It brought $85.50.

Apropos of Mr. Ramsden's New Book and Its Suggestions

Written for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By FRANK C. HIGGINS, F. R .N. S.

To a lover of far eastern lore, Mr. H. A. Ramsden's new book on the Corean Coins, Charms and Amulets comes as a surprise and a delight. Surprise at the many good things packed into such compact compass and delight at the orderly manner in which his scholarly treatment has ranged these hitherto wanderers in numismatic space.

s to the manner in which the book is illustrated, printed and bound, he must indeed be a western barbarian who has not dispensed with surprise at any fresh dainty evidence that modern Japanese craft is as practical and typical of the best western methods as her ancient arts are inimitable by any method. The publishers, the Jun Kobayagawa Co., of Tokio, certainly merit a share of the congratulation due to the author.

Mr. Ramsden has so arranged and so illustrated his work that one may henceforth attribute hitherto unclassified pieces according to his record. He has placed the native Chinese characters side by side with the English text so that it will be easy for the novice to group similar coins or varieties together but only a student of the classical literature of the Orient can with out such notes as are lacking appreciate the wealth of sentiment and symbolism embodied on the restricted spaces of these little pieces. There is as great wealth of association to almost every word as there would be in for instance such a phrase as "Remember the Maine," which conjures up to the American mind the whole detail of the Spanish war or in the one word "strenuosity," which has become a monosyllibic ideaograph for ex-President Roosevelt. There is such a lot involved in the terse sentences and curious figures borne by these medals and medallets that it would be necessary to write quite a book to cover the whole interesting ground, yet I hope to be able to offer a few points concerning their principal characteristics which can only tend to heighten the interest.

In view of the paucity of literature on the topic we are forced to depend upon Mr. Ramsden's profound knowledge of his subject and presence on the ground as to the identity of all of the pieces noted, as Corean. We may note however that the curious figure which occupies the center of the Corean arms (it is shown on the cover of the book in question) is not confined to Corea although Americans have been in the habit of calling everything bearing it indiscriminately "Corean," because of the employment cited.

I will try to be as economical of space as possible in giving a useful version of the principally known facts.

The first legendary law-giver and general civilizer of the Chinese is held to be one Fo-Hi, whose dates are variously given as all the way from the time of the Trojan war to that of Moses. At any rate, he was a celestial Edison and if Chinese traditions are to be credited, the people of the "flowery land" did not know how to eat, sleep or think until some divinely endowed genius taught them the tricks. One of the great things Fo-Hi did for China was to teach the art of writing and that in a sort of Morse alphabet of entire and broken lines (dots and dashes) of which a notice is preserved in the Pa-Kua, a sort of talismanic formula enbodying the mystery of the

created universe. They are as follows: Heaven, The Dew, Fire, Thunder, Mountains, Water, Wind, Earth; although they have been listed by others as follows: Heaven, Sun, Moon, Stars, "Law and order," Birds, Wild beasts and "proportion." This simple form of writing is not far removed from the Babylonian "arrow head" writing and Tartar tally-stick notching as means of communication. The basis of the Pa-Kua is given as the four primitive elements,—Heaven, Earth, Fire, and Water.

It was not only the ground work of caligraphy in which innumerable combinations of the character were employed but also that of computation by multiples of 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, the last named figure being the potentiality into accordance with which it was sought to bring every calculable circumstance. Chinese wisdom being such a compound of clever penetrations into the mysteries of nature (many of the most valuable scientific discoveries relating to astronomy and the procession of the universe having been made by them) coupled with arrantly nonsensical traditions, superstition, pseudomagic and imaginative symbolism that it is easier to take it for what it is worth than try to give a logieal reason for every freak encountered. However long after Fo-Hi had got the whole ereation lined up his "lucky number" "64," arose the Emperor Hoang-Ti, who like Caesar, has left his personal pseudonym as the Imperial title and Hoang-Ti handed Fo-Hi's system a body blow by introdueing a near deeimal system with the figure "5" as the "big medieine" beeause it was the decimal unit, if the term may be permitted. Everything

"YAN" AND "YIN,"
The Chinese Symbol of Creation, surrounded by the Pa Kua or Eight Diagrams.

celestial or mundane now had to be re-oragnized into "bunches of fives." Instead of the original four elements were adopted the five now claimed by the Chinese Wood, Fire, Metal, Water, Earth. The five fingers of the hand were given a mystical significance approximating that of the Egyptian Thau and the five-rayed star which is the symbol of the double triangle, in Hindou mythology, the sign of united Vishnu and Siva and among the Semites, the "Seal of Solomon," etc.

In the development of this extra-

ordinary Chinese theology we have a story paralleling the first chapter of Genesis, where "In the beginning were two principles—Li, force, and Ki, matter, or Fire and Water respectively. The earth was created from the sediment of the waters. The eternal fire is the soul of Ki and as such is called Yan, or light, and is also the sun or male principle in nature.

Water, by which is not understood the element but the troubled, slimy liquid mass of primaeval matter sediment, is Yin or Darkness and is the female principle. Yan and Yin are the finer and grosser Ki respectively. Originally they were the same as Li and Ki. Thus from the original trinity of creation, fire, water and earth developed the five of later theology. Li is the fixed vault of Heaven which is of crystal, Ki chaotic matter, the Earth is the son of both. Then said the Chinese, Yan and Yin became the equal of Li and Ki.

Yin was the primaeval darkness which brooded over chaos until the latter gave birth to Light. This is Tien or Heaven, which is both father and son as it is at once the Son and the superior of Darkness. This anamoly proceeding from the mixing of Yan and Yin with Li and Ki many of the Chinese philosophers attempt to explain with indifferent success but the whole theory far from being ridiculous will be recognized by students as embodying the elements of divine mystery which Holy Writ handles in another manner.

The Chinese recognize writing as materialized spirit and therefore a part of Li which invests it with a sacred character and so it is a sin to defile or destroy written or printed paper which is collected by officials and publicly cremated in a special temple in every Chinese city to this day.

Now, without delving deeper into this interesting subject, which is one of the great "occult wisdoms" of the East, we will say that the so-called Corean symbol represents graphically the eternal mating of Yan and Yin, the former being the light part and the latter the dark. It will be noted that this figure possesses one of the characteristics of the Swastika, inasmuch as that the eye in following it must continue to revolve in one direction giving an artificial sense of motion, which is intentional.

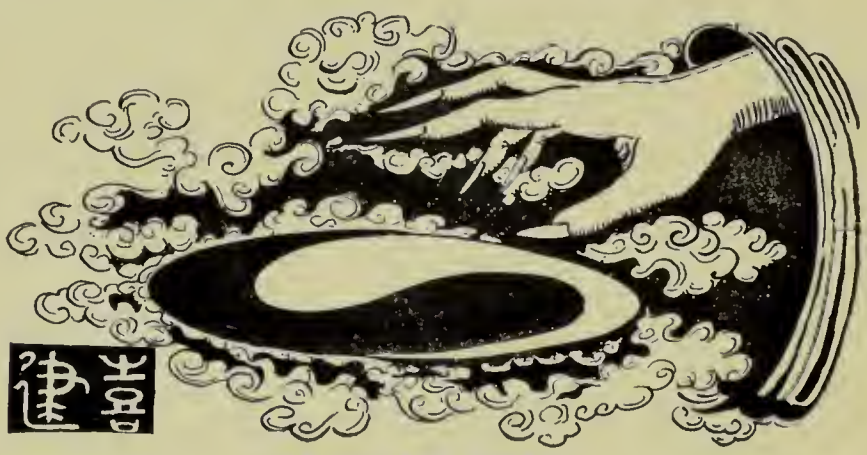
Thus we have in this curiously divided circle, the notions of "Creation," fecundity, the revolution of night and day, the struggle between good and evil, Heaven and Hell, in fact the whole cycle of seemingly opposing forces, the conflict between which engenders Life and Being as sparks fly from the shock of flint and steel. There seem to be many medallic combinations of Yan and Yin with the Swastika and also quadruple and multiple Yans and Yins which would indicate Li and Ki (or the elements in ebullition) as well. While the Corean has adopted it as his national "arms" (as the Crysanthemum in Japan) the Yan and Yin symbol is common property of the whole Chinese race and the medal on which it is depicted represents in miniature especially when surrounded by the whole or part of the PaKua the stupendously impressed moment which is so beautifully described in the "Book of books."

"The earth was without form and void
And the darkness was upon the face of the deep
And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
And God said: Let there be light."

As all religions not nourished by education and high aspiration degenerate into mere superstitions, it is probable that the Chinese or Corean coolie with one of these so-called "amulets" hung around his neck would merely regard it as a "good luck" charm or a symbol of the Sun and Shadow, the word "Yan" having come to colloquially signify the

Sun, but the deeper meaning is there, and it may be remarked that we of the Western world have no such sublime symbolic rendering of this particular mystery, which is the property of all humanity, expressed in one way or another.

Theosophical speculation has no place in a Numismatic article, but the writer vouches for the plain fact which can be found graphically illustrated in color in Volume XVI of Meyer's Conversations Lexicon (the German Encyclopaedia), page 78, the effect of polarized light on sections of various quartz crystals is to exhibit, chromatically, the Swastika, the Cross, the Yan and Yin figure and a formation which partakes of the features of all three, showing that the world's most ancient historical symbols are present in nature as well as art



THE CHINESE GENESIS.

Our Next Issue

The next issue of the Numismatic Monthly will be a double number for August and September and will cover the A. N. A. Convention. It will be issued just as soon after the Convention as possible.

We are not particularly pleased with the idea of not issuing an August number, but as the editor-publisher will be absent on a much deserved vacation, we trust that our readers will be indulgent, as we will make a special effort to more than make up for lost time with the September number of the Monthly, which, we shall endeavor to have exceed in interest and value our past "Convention Numbers."

MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION OF CONFEDERATE CURRENCY.

The famous Titcomb collection of Confederate currency, which is without doubt the most complete of its kind in the world, is now in the hands of B. Max Mehl, who will probably have it on exhibit at the A. N. A. Convention. The collection contains more than 2200 different varieties of the notes, including all the great rarities, and many varieties that are not in any collection; the condition and other qualities are such that it is impossible for any other similar collection to surpass it.

Mr. Titcomb was over thirty years in forming this collection; the notes are all properly arranged in envelopes and fully attributed, and in all represents a complete history of the Currency of the Confederate government. The number of rarities and interesting varieties in the collection is so large that space would not permit to give a complete list.

Denford Numismatic Society

"June was certainly a great month for coin sales," said Jennings, "and if I get one half of what I bid on I shall have to go without coal next winter and let the furance have a rest."

"Let it rest then," said Howard. "Coins are more important than coal this time of the year anyway. But whatever have you been doing—bidding on a Brian Boru crown, or trying to corner all the territorial gold that was offered—or perhaps it was the Ancients that made you bite?"

"No, sir," replied Jennings, "I am not buying the B. B. crown and shall not unless Congress makes it obligatory, these speculative issues do not appeal to me, but I am interested in our gold coins, also in the Ancients, and Mehl had a fine selection of these series in his last sale. I find I can rely on his descriptions and I am confident of his integrity of purpose."

"Integrity of purpose!" said Hill. "You talk like a book; where ever did you pick that sentence up?"

"I saw it in an old catalogue," was the reply, "and it caught my fancy for sure—the rythm is majestic, reminds me of Niagara."

"Talking of Niagara," said Blake, "I was there a couple of weeks ago; business took me to Buffalo, and hearing that the Canadians had their annual military camp at Niagara on the Lake, I determined to take it in and I was not disappointed either. It was a grand sight, they had some ten thousand men under arms, and the troops did their work very well."

"When the artillery dashed over the ground, drew up and unlimbered the big guns, and set to work, I was delighted, it fairly reminded me of some unlimbering I saw at the Montreal Convention last year—only these were not mere fountain pen and type writing machine warriors."

"They did some work then," said Howard, "and were not content with simply making a very loud noise, but shall you attend the New York Convention this year?"

"I shall not," replied Blake. "I did my duty last year, when I took in Montreal, but probably Jennings or Howard may go—ask them."

"Well," said Jennings, "I cannot say for sure—but one thing you may depend on—Denford will be well represented. I expect there will be two or three of us there at least. They have a good programme out, and what ever the N. Y. men undertake to do—they do it well—they are famed for that, and the Convention will be no exeeption to that rule. It will be the best ever."

"Yes," said Howard, "that picture of the tropical court of the Park Avenue Hotel has taken my fancy—and I am determined to see if it is correct—besides I want to attend the Convention Anetion Sale. There will be some good things offered and I have never been present at a sale yet."

"I note," said Hill, "that the coins offered will be the property of dealers only—so doubtless many shop worn treasures and lots returned, will have another chance to make good. I gather that bids will only be made by those members who are present at the sale, no provision seems to have been made for those who will be nnable to take the Convention in."

"A eurious feature is, no bidder will know who is responsible for the deseription of eondition, so it will be a kind of grab bag sale. I do not see just why the dealers only are to manage this, unless it is to give them a chance to make up for their contributions to the Convention expenses."

"You're quite wrong," said Howard. "The dealers are all of them wealthy men, at least the Eastern dealers are. Why I know of one who has spent some

$1750 in two or three attempts to encourage numismatic art, and that's a good deal in these days."

"Well," said Jennings, "I only trust the N. Y. Convention will arouse public interest in things numismatic and result in a large increase of membership to the A. N. A. Some people are always ready to boost the British Numismatic Society, but in my opinion it is far better to work for the success of the A. N. A. It is true that the British Society has several Royal members, but I am an American, a real Son of the Revolution, and I cannot enthuse over the fact that somebody has unearthed a lot of Saxon pennies in a pig-stye in Lancashire and promptly gives us eighteen pages of description of the same; let us push our own Society, and let the Britishers push theirs."

"But—On to New York!—should be the cry, and let all work for the success of the A. N. A. Work, hard work—not mere braying—will alone do the trick."

FIND OF ANCIENT COINS IN SWEDEN.

A remarkable discovery of ancient coins that had been made in Gothland was recently reported. These antiquarian treasures have now arrived at Stockholm, and examination by the state museum authorities shows that they are of great interest and antiquity. The treasure trove consists of 1,904 whole coins and 85 imperfect coins, a fragment of the border of a clasp, a portion of a buckle, and some plain pieces of silver. The most recent of the coins date back to the middle of the 11th century. The oldest are Arabian coins of which there are 28. These are piereed and appear to have been used as ornaments. Further, 31 imperfect Arabian coins were found, 4 of which are from Byzantium. Included in the discovery are 1,115 German coins and 720 Anglo Saxon pieces, bearing the effigies of King Ethebred and of King Canute. There are also 35 Danish and Norwegian coins. It is also interesting to note that in Gothland more than 80 per cent of the total discoveries of Anglo-Saxon coins have been made.

On the Western Coast, nearest to England, but few English coins have been discovered, which would seem to prove that Gothland was once the commercial center of Scandinavia.

J. ARMSTRONG FOSTER.

MEHL'S JUNE 11th SALE.

The following are some of the important coins and prices they realized at the Auction sale of coins held by B. Max Mehl, on June 11th. An unusually large number of bidders were represented and the general results proved highly satisfactory to all parties concerned.

1793 Cent. Chain	$10.00
1821 Cent. Fine	4.00
1856 Flying eagle cent, fine	6.00
1849 N. G. & N. Calif. $5.00	38.50
Set of six varieties Calif. dollars, halves and quarters	28.00
1849 Mormon $20.00	265.00
1879 $4.00 gold piece, proof	85.50
1799 over 98 cent, very good	24.00
First Æ. Caligula	5.00
Roman ÆS. or largest bronze coin	6.25
1836 Dollar. Flying eagle	16.00
1860 Pikes Peak $10. Slight scratches	41.50
1795 $5.00. Fine	21.00
1849 Moffat & Co. $10	36.25
Miners Bank $10	195.00
1852 Wass Molitor & Co. $5.00.	98.00

The sale contained over eight hundred lots, forming an excellent assortment of numismatic material.

Think of an acre of ground covered with a pile of silver dollars 320 feet high. That would be the sight presented if the whole wealth of the country were piled together. It amounts to more than one hundred and seven billion dollars.

Chicago Numismatic Society

The 77th monthly meeting of the above named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, June 3rd, President Harry F. Williams presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Ripstra, J. T. Kelly, Green, Verkler, Carey, W. F. Dunham, McDonald, V. M. Brand, Brenner, Excell, Leon, Vercouter, Baker, Williams, and Wilson.

A communication was received from the Chicago Historical Society acknowledging receipt of medals. Dr. G. C. Fry and Mr. John S. Sensow were elected to membership. Mr. Baker gave a select reading on Coin Nomenclature. Mr. W. F. Dunham exhibited his collection of Roman first bronzes; and Mr. Leon some Siberian coins.

Magazines received since last report were: The Numismatist for April; Philateltic West, Spink's Circular and Numismatische Correspondenz for May, and Mehl's Monthly for June. Auction catalogues from Green, Hess (2), Low, Mehl, Sears and Spink. Catalogue with fixed prices from Boudeau; and a priced catalogue from Low.

Adjourned to meet July 1st, 1910.

BEN G. GREEN, Secretary.

COMMUNICATIONS.

B. Max Mehl, Esq.,
Editor Mehl's Numismatic Monthly,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Sir:

I do not know how to adequately express my appreciation to you of the great contribution which you have made to the success of the approaching Convention of the American Numismatic Association by making it possible for all the members of that body to have early information of the preparations made in their behalf so that the wavering ones, whose absence or presence is so momentous to the strength of such gathering, might early decide that it would be too good to miss.

We want everybody here from every part of the country, and it was necessary for many members who could only have one vacation to have a good reason not to take it early in order to have it so much better with us in September. This fact alone ought to have a great bearing on the volume of attendance.

We are working too hard and with our hearts too full of welcome and eagerness to gladden those of our visitors not to achieve notable results. Although the general programme is now a matter of record the details require continual elaboration and we keep on daily adding little touches of the brush which are in the long run bound to ensure a very pleasant picture.

Many of our aims in behalf of the convention are as yet unpublishable because not entirely perfected, but we have as many good things in view as have

been already announced, and the fitting of all into a smoothly working final programme which will proceed without a hitch will be a matter of extreme delicacy. We have only one regret and that is that in view of the impossibility of having the American Numismatic Society Building earlier or of postponing the Convention until later when vacations to busy men would be impossible, that our date conflicts with that of the Eucharistic Congress in Montreal which may prevent some of our most valued Canadian friends being with us during the entire week. We were so splendidly entertained in Montreal last year that it will be a source of real sorrow to note the absence of any one of our late Canadian hosts. Our only consolation lies in the fact that the disability will not be general. I have nothing but admiration and praise for the zeal of my colleagues of the Entertainment Committee of the New York Numismatic Club and in fact of all of our members. Not one of them to whom has been entrusted a duty has spared time or trouble towards its fulfillment.

I am already in receipt of letters from several European Art Journals and Collector's publications asking that they be supplied with reports of our proceedings which shows that the eyes of the Numismatic world are on New York as well as Brussels at the present moment.

Most cordially yours,

FRANK C. HIGGINS.

R. G. Purdy, Saskatoon, Sask, Canada, who is the latest addition to our "Accounts For Sale" column, is also a new "variety." He sent in a lot of bids for Mehl's November 1909 sale, obtaining a portion of them. He remitted for some, returned others and promised to send the balance, but after waiting about four months, the only thing that Mehl was able to get out of him, after writing him several requests for settlement, was a postal full of insulting remarks.

The 1910 A. N. A. campaign, or rather election as it can hardly be called a "campaign" promises to be a very tame affair. We are informed by Secretary Duffield (June 18th) that he has not received a single nomination. Everybody expects all the old officers to be re-elected; this will without doubt be done, as the members will surely not hesitate to show their appreciation of the 1910 administration for the unselfish and ardent manner in which it has worked for the advancement of the A. N. A.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The publisher is again obliged to give notice that in future duplicate copies, to take place of those claimed "not received," cannot be supplied free, unless the request is made (enclosing stamp for postage) within the month of issue. As the whole edition is properly addressed and mailed about the first of each month, we cannot be justly held responsible for anything which may happen while it is in possession of the Post Office Department, or of messengers, etc. Single copies are 10c each; back issuse, from 15c to 25c per copy.

The number of germs perching on a one dollar bill has been variously estimated at from 72,000 to 92,000,000. Now if some one will kindly lend us a microscope and another gentleman in the audience will furnish the bill, we are willing to give an afternoon off to counting the aforementioned germs, so that every man who has or may have in his possession a whole unbroken one dollar bill will be able to know just what percentage of risk he is running.

New York Numismatic Club

The nineteenth regular monthly meeting of the New York Numismatic Club took place at Keen's Chop House on Thursday evening, June sixteenth.

The return has been made to the original headquarters of the club in view of the offer of superior accommodations to those enjoyed previously.

The Park Avenue Hotel will continue to be used for the Club's larger functions.

An excellent attendance was present with President Higgins in the Chair. The Club had the pleasure of welcoming its distinguished Philadelphia member, Dr. T. L. Comparette of the U. S. Mint.

President Charles DeKay of the Society of Friends of the Medal was also present. The rules relating to membership were suspended to permit of the unanimous welcome to membership of Dr. George F. Kunz, the eminent mineralogist and head of the Tiffany establishment.

The Club received with regret the resignation of Wm. R. Weeks upon the occasion of his retirement from New York city.

An unanimous vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. B. Max Mehl of Fort Worth, Texas, for the thorough manner in which he had covered the details of the forthcoming convention in the June number of Mehl's Numismatic Monthly and the Secretary was directed to congratulate him upon his promptness in conveying the news to the members of the Association throughout the country.

President Higgins addressed the Club on the subject of the new Presidential medal struck by the U. S. Mint which was exhibited and discussed critically. Among the usual fine exhibits were: The new badge of the "Tavern Club" shown by Mr. DeKay. This has upon obverse a bear enjoying a stein of beer and other cheer at a table, with name of club and date of birth, 1884. The reverse is blank for inscription. Mr Elmer S. Sears showed an extremely fine specimen of the sixteen dollar Moffatt bar (gold) stamped in California, 1849.

Mr. E. T. Newell had a most interesting exhibit in a complete set of coin portraits of the Roman Empresses of the Claudian line, including Antonia, Poppaea, Octavia, Agrippina, Sabina, etc., also a set of interesting coins of Hadrian in mint state and others of Galba, Otho and Vitellius, the rare rulers.

The balance of the evening was devoted to the business of the approaching convention of the American Numismatic Association.

Prsident Higgins upon demand of the members present explained in detail the manner in which the already published programme would be carried out and submitted the financial "budget" required for its realization.

His report was enthusiastically received and the required support guaranteed by the liberal response of the members present and the many messages

sent by others unable to attend, stating that they would support whatever action was taken by the Club.

A telegram was received from Chairman Webster of the Entertainment Committee regretting that his presence in Washington prevented his being present.

Mr. Daniel R. Kennedy reported that the proposed convention sale had scored an immediate hit and that he had already received assurance of choice consignments from many quarters.

The Club received during the evening its new "Membership Cards," which are of unique design showing the Club seal in the center of a circle of rep resentative coins of twelve different series, ancient and modern, oriental and occidental. It was announced that there would be weekly meetings of various committees on convention business all through the summer.

DANIEL R. KENNEDY, Secretary.

255 West 92nd Street, New York.

A NEW MINT MARK?

A "collector" from Ainsworth, Iowa, writes us that he possesses a "half dollar made in 1893 with the ship on one side and Columbus' head on other side; mint mark is a 'B' or 'H' or an 'R'."

With the numerous mint marks generally reported in the press, we will soon have the entire alphabet represented in our lists of branch mints.

CORNER IN 3-CENT PIECES.

The disappearance of the 3-cent piece has for years been a matter of mild speculation. Few persons are aware that a large proportion of the coins of this denomination which remained in circulation when the government stopped issuing them are peacefully slumbering in sundry large fat canvas bags in the vaults of a certain electrical manufacturing company of Chicago. They are not for sale yet.

Each of the coins is an evidence of petty larceny.

Years ago the company equipped many telephone pay stations with dime slot machines. It was supposed that they could be worked only with dimes. The 3-cent pieces were be coming rare, and no thought was taken of them.

Hardly six months passed before one of the telephone companies discovered that the collectors were yielding a harvest of 3-cent pieces. Then from all over the country came similar complaints.

Each company forwarded the pieces to the manufacturing company and more or less politely asked that a corresponding number of dimes or a check for an equivalent amount be sent back in exchange.

A council was held at the office of the manufacturing company. The cost of correcting the boxes was compared with the fairly trustworthy information of the number of 3-cent pieces in circulation. It was found that a balance was in favor of the 3 cents, and it was decided to accept the pieces as dimes.

Gradually the inpour of 3-cent pieces narrowed down to an intermittent current. The company seemed to have about all the pieces.

It is said that if ever the premium on 3-cent pieces goes high enough, the coins will be offered to collectors at prices based upon the original cost to the company, plus 6 per cent. a year, plus cost of storage, plus cost of guarding, plus cost of carrying the fund upon the books. Long ago the slot machines that collected them were relegated to the scrap head.—New York Sun.

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Volume 3

Numbers 8 and 9
Whole Nos. 32 and 33

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

August and September, 1910

Containing a Complete Illustrated Account of the Business Sessions and Social Features of the

1910 American Numismatic Association Convention

Held in New York City
September 5-10.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY
B. MAX MEHL
NUMISMATIST
Fort Worth, Texas, U. S. A.

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Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, AUG.-SEPT., 1910 Nos. 8 & 9

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

THE

American Numismatic Association Convention

OF 1910

HELD AT NEW YORK CITY, SEPTEMBER 5-10

One of the Most Successful and Profitable Conventions in the History of the Association

WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF MOST ENJOYABLE SOCIAL FEATURES.

OPENING OF THE CONVENTION.

ADDDRESSES OF WELCOME.

New York extended a warm welcome to the members of the American Numismatic Association on Tuesday, September 6th, when the annual convention of the Association for 1910 was opened at the building of the American Numismatic Society in 156th Street.

President Henderson called the convention to order at 11 o'clock.

In an eloquent and stirring address, in which he called attention to the great progress of numismatic science in America, and the importance of New York as a numismatic center, Mr. Bauman L. Belden welcomed the delegates on behalf of the American Numismatic Society.

Mr. D. Macon Webster, who responded on behalf of the Association, said that when preliminary arrangements had been made some months ago it was expected that Mr. Gaynor, the mayor of New York, would be present to welcome the convention. The mayor, however, had arranged to go abroad, but he wrote a very courteous letter expressing his regret at being unable to attend and emphasizing the fact that he was in hearty sympathy with the Association and its objects. Mr. Webster continued: "The duty of welcoming you on behalf of the city has therefore devolved upon me as the chairman of the Entertainment Committee; and a glance through the official programme will convinve you that we have done everything in our power to make your stay here as pleasant as possible. I am sure that New York is known to be one of the most hospitable cities in our country and I trust that when you shall have returned home again you will regard this city in a different light from what it is sometimes represented to be in our yellow journals. You are absolutely safe here. You can carry your cash or your coins in your pockets without being waylaid and robbed; and I can assure you that as long as you follow the straight and narrow path you will have no difficulty in getting back with all you brought and possibly something more. It is a source of great pleasure to the Entertainment Committee to find such a

large attendance at the convention and you may rely upon it that no pains will be spared to make your visit both enjoyable and profitable.

Mr. Frank C. Higgins, President of the New York Numismatic Club, in a brief and witty speech, extended greetings on behalf of the Club. "We have been working for weeks," he said, "in making arrangements for the entertainment of the convention. Our welcome could not be compressed into a few words, but will extend throughout the week. On behalf of the Club I again give you the heartiest of greetings and can assure you that you are thrice welcome."

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

In opening his address, President Henderson expressed thanks on behalf of the delegates to the convention for the warm welcome they had receivd; and said that the Association highly appreciated the action of the American Numismatic Society in permitting the convention to meet in the Society's building. "In the name of the American Numismatic Association," he said, "it is a privilege and pleasure to acknowledge all the courtesies and kindnesses that have been extended to us."

An Official Organ.

Taking up the regular order of business, the President said that the Board of Governors, which had been in session the previous day, had made several recommendations and these would be embodied in his remarks. The first and most important subject was the proposed publication of an official organ. One recommendation was that the Association should purhcase the Numismatist and publish it as its own official organ, which would remove it from private control and place its columns at the disposal of the A. N. A. This course, which was greatly to be desired, would be a subject for discussion at a later session when some definite action would be taken.

Initiation Fees and Annual Dues.

The President called attention to the fact that the annual dues were entirely too small for the funds of the Association. It had been the custom for officers of the Association to bear their own expenses with the exception of the amount expended for postage by the Secretary and the cost of printing. Some of the expenses incurred by officers were by no means light. It was now recommended that the annual fees of the Association be increased to two dollars and that an initiation fee of one dollar be instituted. This increased revenue would enable the officers of the Association to pay the running expenses.

In this connection, efforts had been made during the year to acquire a special fund for carrying on some projects of the Association. While this movement had met with only partial success, enough money had been raised to cover the cost of the proposed Year Book. This will contain the proceedings of the Convention, the papers read, and many other valuable and interesting features. Most of the matter had now gone to press and as soon as the report of the proceedings had been incorporated the book would be completed and mailed to members free of charge. Extra copies could be obtained for 25 cents each.

Federal Incorporation.

A full report from the Committee on Federal Incorporation would be presented at the business session. It had been hoped to bring this matter to a

CONVENTION GROUP OF THE 1910 AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION.
In the Tropical Court of the Convention Headquarters, Park Avenue Hotel, New York, September 5, 1910.

successful termination at the present convention, but technical reasons had prevented it. Whether or not the proposed incorporation took place the present constitution and by-laws needed thorough revision. It would be in order for the convention to appoint a committee to take up this work.

District Conventions.

The President pointed out that the annual conventions of the Association were held at points which prevented the vast majority of members from attending. Allied with the Association were a number of local organizations and it had been suggested that these should hold conventions regularly or irregularly. This would not only stimulate interest in numismatics, but would enable a large number of members to attend the district conventions which might be made as interesting as the national conventions. This might also be provided for by a change in the constitution.

The Biographical Album.

The proposed publication of a biographical album was simply postponed for lack of funds, when fifty dollars would have carried on the work. As soon as the requisite amount is raised the work will be completed and will prove an extremely valuable book. This will also be considered by the convention.

Dr. Heath Memorial Medal.

In referring to this, President Henderson said: "It was my pleasure to attend a session of the New York Numismatic Club when this matter was discussed. It was then proposed that the Club should issue a commemorative medal of our founder, Dr. Heath. But for lack of funds this would have been done by our association two years ago. It was proposed that the Club should settle the matter immediately, but some members thought it wise to defer action until the subject had been brought before this convention. We believe a portrait medal should be issued commemorating Dr. Heath and his work and the reverse to consist of the seal of the Association. The Association had no funds for the production of this medal and they will have to be raised by popular subscription. It is to be hoped that every member will respond liberally, earnestly realizing,as we all do, the love and veneration that we owe to Dr. Heath."

At the close of his address, the President appointed D. A. Williams of Baltimore, B. G. Green of Chicago, and E. S. Sears of Fall River as a committee on Credentials.

A Committee on Resolutions consisting of D. Macon Webster, New York; Howard Newcomb, Detroit, and Howland Wood, of Brookline, was next appointed.

Following the reading of a paper by Mr. Low, the Secretary read a letter from Mr. R. L. Reid of Vancouver, expressing his good wishes for the success of the convention and adding: "It might be of interest to note that the dies of the British Columbia gold coins have been found. Some years ago a clerk in the consul's office in San Francisco came across a parcel marked "British Columbia, Gov't," and found it contained the dies of the British Columbia gold coins; but they had been ruined to some extent by the outer edges being chipped by a hammer. The dies were forwarded to Victoria and I examined them recently. I will give the Association the benefit of my examination some day."

Mr. Belden announced that he had just received the following cablegram

from Paris, from Mr. J. Stanford Saltus, long President of the Numismatic Society and one of the council: "Would like to attend convention."

The convention then adjourned until Wednesday, September 7th, at 2 p. m.

SECOND SESSION.

Wednesday Afternoon, September 7th.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

On the convention coming to order, President Henderson called for the report of the Committee on Credentials, which was presented by Mr. D. A. Williams, of Baltimore. It showed that proxies had been received as follows: F. Zerbe 5, J. C. Michelson 2, T. Michael 1, B. M. Mehl 7, T. E. Leon 2, F. C. Higgins 1, F. G. Duffield 88, Mr. Chapman 4, W. A. Ashbrook 2, J. M. Henderson 8, L. H. Low 1, H. Wood 9, R. W. McLachlan 11, A. J. de Lagerberg 1, T. I. Elder 8, H. O. Graberg 1, M. Marcusan 1, B. G. Green 13, J. E. Alden 1, J. M. Oliver 1.

On motion the report was accepted and the proxies ordered to be distributed to the holders.

The President next called for the reports of standing committees, the first in order being that of the Committee on Printing an Official Organ. On behalf of this committee, Mr. A. J. de Lagerberg, of Passaic, N. J., presented a report in which thanks were returned to members for assistance rendered to the Numismatist in the way of contributions and subscriptions. The services of the editor, Mr. F. Zerbe, and the associate editor, Mr. Howland Wood, were also gratefully acknowledged. The growing value of the Numismatist was also pointed out and members were urged to send their contributions to its columns and assist in gaining new subscribers.

On motion the report was accepted.

The report of the Finance Committee being called for and the chairman being absent, the Secretary announced that he had received the report, which showd that funds amounting to $184 had been collected with pledges of $20 more, and that $5 additional had also been obtained. The total expenses of the committee had been $28.45, mostly for postage and printing.

On motion the report was approved and ordered to be placed on file.

The Year Book.

The report of the special committee on the Year Book, which was sent to the Secretary by Mr. B. H. Saxton of Davenport, Iowa, gave hearty approval to the project, the idea being that the book should contain an account of the convention proceedings, giving the papers in full, the reports of committees, a description of the exhibits, a suitable number of portraits, a complete list of members, and full information as to the contents of the Association's library. This would form a valuable addition to numismatic libraries and would enable members unable to attend the convention to get an intelligent idea of its proceedings. The committee had arranged for the compilation of the Year Book, which would contain about sixty pages of text and about five of illustrations, with an edition of one thousand.

Special Publicity.

THE PRESIDENT: This committee, I may state, has not been idle, but has actively taken up the work intended for it. Numerous articles have been sent to our leading dailies and magazines, many of which have appeared. The committee is conducting a kind of missionary work. One of its objects is to

organize local societies in different parts of the country and this work has also been attended with great success.

Committee on Improvement of Design of National Coinage.

Owing to some misunderstanding, no report was submitted by this committee. Mr. Chapman, the chairman, stated that although the committee was appointed at the Columbus convention no report had yet been prepared. In view of this, the President requested the committee to serve for another year and to report at the next convention.

Next Annual Convention.

The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Chicago Numismatic Society inviting the Association to hold its next convention in Chicago.

On motion the invitation was accepted and the Secretary was instructed to inform the Chicago Society that the convention of 1911 would be held in Chicago. (Applause.)

Mr. Green called attention to the fact that the annual convention of the American Philatelic Society would also be held in Chicago next year. That

DR. J. M. HENDERSON,
Re-elected President.

society had appointed a committee to confer with the A. N. A. with a view to making arrangements for holding the two conventions on consecutive dates. A great many people belonged to the two organizations and were anxious to attend both conventions. By holding them on consecutive dates this would enable them to attend both meetings. He moved that the President appoint a committee of three to confer with the American Philatelic Society.

The motion having been carried, the President announced that he would name the committee at the next session.

A paper was read by Mr. A. J. de Lagerberg on "Coins and Medals."

The Heath Memorial.

President Henderson called attention to the announcement in the official programme that a portion of the session was to be devoted to expressions of appreciation of the life work and character of the Association's founder, Dr. George F. Heath of Monroe, Mich.

In a brief address, the President reviewed the career of Dr. Heath, his great services in the cause of numismatics and his unselfish labors in founding the Association. At the conclusion of his remarks, President Henderson called on Mr. D. M. Webster to read the eulogistic poem written by Mr. A. J. Heaton, who was unable to attend the convention.

MR. HIGGINS: Mr. Belden and Directors of the American Numismatic Society—I honor of this memorable event and what I believe is one of the most impressive moments in the history of this splendid edifice, we have great pleasure in depositing in this permanent treasure house of numismatic lore a portrait of Dr. Heath, which we hope will be preserved for all time.

Mr. Higgins then unveiled a portrait of Dr. Heath placed on an easel at the side of the President's desk.

In accepting the portrait on behalf of the American Numismatic Society, Mr. Belden said: "I desire to thank President Higgins and the New York Numismatic Club and the American Numismatic Association for this portrait of a good and great man. It will find an appropriate place among those who have loved numismatics because Dr. Heath has left an imperishable monument behind him and one that is more enduring than stone or granite. It is a monument of the love in which he is held by those who knew him. It was never my pleasure to meet Dr. Heath, although he was for years a corresponding member of the society; but from what I have heard of him I almost feel as if I had known him and can share with you a full realization of his sterling worth."

Some concluding remarks were made by President Henderson, who eloquently referred to the high esteem in which Dr. Heath had been held in his native town, Monroe, Mich., his services as a public and professional man, his great charities and his spotless private life. As the representative of the A. N. A. the President said he had attended the funeral of Dr. Heath, which was of a public character, the whole town having united to do honor to his memory, all business being suspended for the occasion. Every member of the Association realized what a loss they had sustained by the death of their leader and founder.

The President suggested that a copy of Mr. Heaton's beautiful poem be engrossed and forwarded to Mrs. Heath, and that it also be published in the forthcoming Year Book. He also referred to the proposed Heath memorial medal and urged members to subscribe liberally to the fund which was needed for its production.

The President concluded by appointed Messrs. Webster, Adams and Frey as a committee to take charge of the fund and attend to carrying out its object.

Mr. Webster suggested that Mr. F. C. Higgins be added to the committee. Mr. Higgins declined to serve on account of having insufficient time to devote to the work, but expressed his willingness to co-operate in every pos-

sible way. Mr. Adams requested that his name be withdrawn, and the President substituted by Mr. W. H. Woodin.

Mr. Adams announced that the convention would be unable to enjoy the addresses of Hon. Charles de Kay and Mr. R. H. Andrews, both gentlemen having been unable to attend.

Mr. Adams said that he had been requested by gold coin collectors to present the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the American Numismatic Association in convention assembled, respectfully requests the Director of the United States Mint to abandon the present style of striking gold proof sets and to resume that in vogue in 1908, when the gold proof coins were produced with a frosted effect.

"It is the opinion of the majority of gold collectors that the present style of gold proof is far inferior to that showing the frosted finish. Owing to the peculiarity of the designs of the St. Gaudens coins the entire planchet is struck in such a way that the whole surface of the coin loses the brilliant, polished finish so much valued by the collector and renders the proof coins scarcely distinguishable from those issued for general circulation.

"With the frosted finish a most artistic effect is produced, throwing the design to the eye in a most attractive way and provides the collector with a superior coin for cabinet purposes and at the same time one which cannot possibly be confused with the coin struck for circulation."

MR. CHAPMAN: How would it do to ask the Director of the Mint whether there is any other way to give us better effects? The sand blast process makes the coin look too much like confectionery; it also removes the finer lines of the die work. Furthermore, I would rather have another color, because the sand blast color is not a gold color, but has a cinnamon tint resembling that of doctored coins. The men at the mint say they cannot do any better, that they cannot polish the dies for us every time we need coins. I think if we could get the surface we had on the St. Gaudens ten and twenty-dollar gold pieces it would be much more satisfactory. The color we have on the proofs today has a real gold surface, but the sand blast is certainly not satisfactory in its results.

MR. ADAMS: This resolution was simply introduced to bring about some improvement. As matters stand now there is no difference between an uncirculated coin and a proof coin and the collector pays the difference.

MR. HAYES: The remarks that have been made apply equally well to the Lincoln cent, because the proofs are not distinguishable from the ordinary coins.

MR. ADAMS: I have been informed by those interested that the sense of this Association will have great weight with the Mint officials. We have been assured that any recommendations we make will be given careful consideration.

After some further discussion, in which it was urged that a change of some kind should be made on the lines suggested, the resolution was carried by a vote of 18 to 3.

The convention then adjourned until 10 a. m. Thursday, September 8th.

THIRD SESSION.

The third session of the convention was called to order at 10:30 on Thursday morning, September 8th., the first business transacted being the reception of committee reports.

Biographical Album.

The Secretary read the report of the Committee on Biographical Album, which stated that 178 data forms, properly filled out, had been received, 110 of which were accompanied by photographs. A data form had been sent to every member of the Association. These forms contained a great deal of information well worthy of preservation. The committee recommended that the sheets be arranged in alphabetical order and that a filing cabinet be purchased in which the photographs could be kept in good condition. The report emphasized the fact that a biographical sketch of each member of the Association was urgently needed and suggested that forms be sent out again to members from whom no returns had been received. Of the $25 appropriated for the work a balance of $2.62 remained on hand.

On motion the report was received and the committee continued.

The "Royal Trio" of Entertainers, to whose untiring efforts is due the great success of the 1910 A. N. A. Convention.

On behalf of the committee on revision of constitution and by-laws Mr. Wood stated that the committee's report had been sent to the Numismatist and had appeared in the January number of that publication.

On motion the report as published was approved and the committee discharged with thanks.

President Henderson appointed Messrs. B. G. Green, P. M. Woolseifer and A. M. Tierney as a committee to confer with a committee of the American Philatelic Society with a view to arranging the meeting of the two conventions on consecutive dates.

The Official Organ.

PRESIDENT HENDERSON: The Board of Governors has already voted to publish an official organ and the general feeling appears to be that we should obtain control of the Numismatist which at present is privately owned.

MR. GRANBERG. I desire, in that connection, to offer the following motion: That the Board of Governors be authorized to conduct negotiations with the owner of the Numismatist with a view to acquiring that journal as the official organ of the A. N. A., provided satisfactory terms can be arranged.

MR. WOOD: Who is to edit and publish the Numismatist if it is acquired by this Association?

THE PRESIDENT: A committee will have to be provided to superintend this work. The assets of the Numismatist, I may state, consist of back numbers, about 700 complete volumes, a list of between 75 and 100 subscribers who are not members of the Association, and a large number of valuable cuts which have been used in past years. The Board of Governors has already recommended that the paper be purchased. At the subscription price of $1.50 a year the outside subscribers are worth about $150. Mr. Zerbe not only sells the good will of the magazine and its title, but his own good will, and offers, if the paper is continued, to assist in its publication and aid in its success. The paper is practically self-sustaining at present, is paying its own way and has a small balance. That would be increased if it were published by the Association. I may add, by way of explanation, that prior to the death of Dr. Heath, Mr. Zerbe wished to acquire the Numismatist. Dr. Heath, who was then the owner, wished to retain control until he had completed 25 years when he would turn it over to anybody in the interests of the Association. Dr. Heath died before the 25 years was completed and although Mr. Zerbe then did not particularly wish to take over the Numismatist, he went to Monroe, Mich., and arranged with Mrs. Heath to continue its publication, thus relieving her of all responsibility. He paid for several issues out of his own pocket and has since had control of the publication. Having expended so much time and money on the paper we could not expect to get it from him for nothing. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made we shall have to look elsewhere for an official organ.

MR. GRANBERG: From what the President has told us it seems to me that if you calculate that each back volume is worth 25 cents, that would make $175. They have about 150 or 200 cuts of coins and medals which should be worth about $60. With the outside subscription list added, that would make over $300. The name of the Numismatist is also a valuable consideration. In addition to this we have 600 members whose subscriptions should bring in nearly $1,200 a year. That would practically cover the cost of production, while we should also take in about $1,000 a year in advertising. We should certainly own and control this paper, for in the hands of our Association it would have a powerful influence."

Several members, including Mr. McLachlan, of Montreal, attacked the proposal for acquiring the Numismatist on the ground that Mr. Zerbe had little to offer in the way of assets and that his terms were too high. Several speakers advocated the publication of an entirely new journal. Mr. McLachlan called attention to the fact that nearly all the European numismatic societies published their own official organs; and that the Swiss Society was practically the only one which received advertisements. He was opposed to inserting advertisements in the proposed official organ. It would be better, he said, to make the membership fee larger than to have the work and trouble that an advertising department would involve.

MR. WOOD: I do not agree with Mr. McLachlan about advertisements. I think we should be obliged to take advertising in order to make the paper pay. It takes a great deal of money to publish a magazine and the Association has no funds to carry it on.

Mr. Nicklewicz strongly opposed the idea of starting a new publication and leaving Mr. Zerbe in the lurch after he had done so much for the Association. He urged the Association to purchase the Numismatist as recommended by the Board of Governors.

Several members inquired where the funds were to be obtained to purchase and continue the Numismatist, as from all accounts the Association had practically no money on hand.

MR. FOWLER (who had applied for membership, but had not yet been admitted to the Association, was given the privilege of the floor). He said: "I have listened to this discussion with interest and strongly approve of the Association publishing its own official organ. But I have been a publisher and printer and know something about the cost of production. From what I have heard this Association seems to be in a bankrupt condition.

THE SECRETARY: The Association is not in such a deplorable condition as has been represented. At the present time we have about $50 on hand and no bills to settle excepting those incurred at this convention.

MR. FOWLER: Two facts to be considered are these: Firstly, that it is very difficult to raise revenue for an official or house organ. I know, for instance, of a trade journal which was conducted by a firm in this city with very large capital, but they were obliged to give it up because it would not pay expenses. Secondly, you will have great difficulty in getting second-class rates, because the Postoffice Department will hold that the paper is forced upon members whether they wish to take it or not and has not a bona fide circulation. I belong to the American Philatelic Society and a paper which this society intended to issue was denied second class rates for precisely the reason I have mentioned. That society has a membership of over 1,700 and has nearly $5,000 in its treasury, but they will not make any arrangements for publishing an official journal. If you have only $50 in your treasury I think you should hesitate before taking over the Numismatist and continuing it.

MR. ELDER: I think that two or three of the lay members should be put on that committee also, and not leave matters to three or four men to decide.

A MEMBER: Do I understand correctly that Mr. Granberg's motion gives the Board of Governors the authority to conclude negotiations for the purchase of the Numismatist if terms are satisfactory?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

THE MEMBER: Then I should not give them any such power.

Mr. Granberg's motion having been seconded a vote was taken when it was duly carried.

Resolution on Proof Coins.

MR. LOW: I desire to offer as a supplement to the resolution adopted yesterday, relative to the special striking of pieces to take the place of proof coins having a mirror-like appearance which we have so long known and admired. For the purpose of bringing the subject to the attention of the Washington authorities I desire to say that I am far from satisfied with the recommendation which was made in yesterday's resolution. Since the design of our gold coins introduced in 1907 do not admit of the brilliant finish produced on coins for more than a hundred years here and in other countries and the law forbids a change in design for a period of 25 years, we must endeavor to secure a distinguishing feature and one that will not conflict with the statute. To choose between two objectionable substitutes for proofs is equivalent to entire absence of action. I suggest that the gold coins for circulation resume

the milled edge and that the words "Specimen" and "Specimen Sets" be adopted for a series struck from the same dies or designs inscribed on the edge in relief "E Pluribus Unum" on all of the gold, silver, nickel and bronze coinage to be sold at the usual advance which has been demanded for proofs."

The adoption of the foregoing supplementary resolution was seconded and carried.

Reports of Officers.

The President having called for the reports of officers for the past year, Secretary Duffield presented his annual report, which showed that the Association had 608 active members whose dues were paid to December 31, 1910. There were thirteen honorary members. Since the last convention the following deaths had occurred: Ernest E. Zay, Paris; J. C. Lighthouse, Rochester, N. Y.; Chas. M. Clark, Braddock, Pa.; Geo. W. Devinney, Philadelphia; S. M. Thompson, Brantford, Ont.; Casper Lembach, Pittsburg.

On motion the report was accepted.

The Treasurer's report, submitted by Mr. D. A. Williams, of Baltimore, showed that $178.13 had been received for expenses to August 3rd, 1907, of which $121.17 had been paid out leaving a balance of $56.96.

On motion the report was accepted and approved.

The report of the librarian, L. M. Gravel, of Montreal, showed that the Association now owned 107 volumes on numismatic subjects, which were available for the use of members.

On motion the report was received and filed.

Election of Officers.

The next business in order was the election of officers for the ensuing year, the nomination of a President being first called for.

Mr. Sears: A year ago, at Montreal, there was but one man who brought order out of chaos, and he is our President today. I think we cannot do better than re-elect him. I, therefore, nominate for President Dr. J. M. Henderson of Columbus O. (Applause.)

On motion the nominations for President were closed.

President Henderson, after acknowledging the compliment, said: "If it is the desire of this Association that I should serve for another year I will gladly accede and do the best I can. (Applause.)

On motion, a rising vote was taken and President Henderson declared elected by acclamation.

THE PRESIDENT: Under the amended constitution and by-laws, elections of officers are to be by ballot. Next in order is the election of B. H. Saxton, of Davenport, Iowa, First Vice President. As he is the only nominee I declare him duly elected according to the ballots received by the Committee on Credentials.

MR. CHAPMAN: I understood that nominations could be made from the floor, no matter what the constitution might say. I had a nomination to make.

President Henderson called attention to the fact that this was not permissible under the new arrangement. At his request, the Secretary read an extract from the constitution and by-laws bearing on this point.

Several members notably Mr. Chapman, severely criticised the amended constitution and by-laws, asserting that the new arrangement practically shut off debate at the convention regarding the suitability of candidates for office.

THE SECRETARY: People who cannot attend the conventions might make the same objection, that they have no chance to vote.

THE PRESIDENT: The next office to be filled is that of General Secretary.

Mr. Wood nominated Mr. Duffield for re-election, but Mr. Duffield declined on the ground that the work, which was increasing, took up too much of his time.

On motion of Mr. Duffield the election of General Secretary was postponed until the next session. The election of treasurer was also postponed.

MR. CHAPMAN: I wish to offer the hearty thanks of this Association to Mr. Duffield for the work he has done in the interests of this organization, without remuneration, but simply for the regard that he has for us all.

The motion was seconded and carried by a rising vote.

On motion Mr. Gravel was re-elected as librarian.

FLASH-LIGHT OF THE ROMAN DINNER

Nominations for the Chairman of the Board of Governors to replace Mr. W. F. Dunham, were next called for.

Mr. Chapman nominated Mr. Granberg. The name of Mr. W. F. Dunham was also presented. A vote being taken, 69 ballots were cast for Mr. Dunham, 189 for Mr. Granberg, who was declared elected.

THE PRESIDENT: Two nominations are required for vacancies on the Board of Governors.

Mr. Mc Lachlan nominated Mr. Henry Chapman; Mr. Duffield nominated Mr. D. A. Williams, Mr. Green nominated Mr. H. Wood. A vote was taken, when the ballots showed that Mr. Wood received 170 ballots, Mr. Chapman 46, Mr. Williams 129. Messrs. Wood and Williams were thereupon declared elected.

Resolution on Experiment Pieces.

Mr. E. H. Adams offered the following resolution: That the American

Numismatic Association in convention assembled September 5-10, 1910, deplores the recent action of the U. S. authorities in seizing and holding a number of pattern and experiment pieces belonging to Mr. J. W. Haseltine, of Philadelphia; and that the Association respectfully requests the government authorities to return the seized coins to their owner, and establish title to any such similar coins issued before 1888 now held in the possession of numismatics in all parts of the United States.

Mr. Adams supplemented his resolution with a lengthy statement in which he reviewed the case of Mr. Haseltine, whose specimens had been seized by the secret service officials without any justification. He gave a summary of the manner in which pattern pieces had been issued since the commencement of United States coinage and discussed at some length the rights of collectors.

On motion the resolution was seconded and adopted.

On motion it was agreed that, for the convenience of members, the next and final session of the convention should be held at the Park Avenue Hotel.

An enthusiastic vote of thanks was given to the American Numismatic Society for its many courtesies, including the use of its beautiful building as a meeting place for the convention.

The convention then adjourned until Friday, September 9th, at 9 a. m.

FOURTH SESSION.

The convention met at the Park Avenue Hotel on Friday morning and was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Dealers and the Association.

Mr. Lyman H. Low was given permission by the chair to make the following statement: "I regard it as dignified and opportune to take exception to the remarks of the gentleman from Chicago yesterday, whereby he would lower his standing in this Association, by reason of his professional calling, furthermore I resent it.

"Your honorable Secretary, who was entrusted with the largest number of proxies, when casting the votes for the Chairman of the Board of Governors, equitably distributed them among the two candidates, but when using the same proxies in the case of the three candidates for members of the Board of Governors he discriminated by dividing the votes between two candidates, excluding the third nominee by reason of his profession.

"I had supposed that all of the members were enjoying equal privileges and I think it fitting to repeat the quotation used in my address on Tuesday, 'Equal justice to all contestants without discrimination.'

"The Philatelic Societies in this country and abroad do not resort to such discrimination and elimination. If these lines are to be followed I shall myself feel that I am no longer eligible for membership."

MR. DUFFIELD: My reply to that is, that in casting the ballots or proxies that I held for Messrs. Wood and Williams as members of the Board of Governors I was simply carrying out my belief that no dealer should be an officer of this Association. I had the best feelings towards Mr. Chapman, the other candidate, and it was for no personal reason that I voted as I did.

MR. GREEN: I don't suppose that anyone would have nominated me for the Board; but if the nomination had been made I should have declined because I do not think it is for the best interests of the Association that a dealer should be on the Board of Governors. In case of a dispute occurring between a dealer and a customer the matter might be referred to the Board and that particular dealer might be a member of the Board."

Mr. Low pointed out that Dr. Heath and other ex-Presidents and officers had been dealers in coins and one of them had distributed catalogues of auction sales and solicited bids. (Ashbrook did this as Secretary of and in the interest of The Ohio State Numismatic Society.)

Mr. McLachlan said he thought that any man who could be trusted as a dealer could be trusted to serve as an officer of the Association and should not be debarred from the mere fact that he was a dealer. Dealers formed part of the membership of the Association and were entitled to representation on the Board. They were as much interested in numismatics as collectors.

Mr. Collins agreed with Mr. McLachlan and added: "I don't know of any collector who isn't a dealer on some scale or other, for he buys coins and sells duplicates. I think it is contrary to the spirit of the Association to debar any man from office simply because he is a dealer."

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION GROUP

Taken on the Steps of the American Numismatic Society Building, Wednesday, September 14th, Dr. Geo. F. Heath Memorial Day.

MR. HUDSON CHAPMAN: I agree with the preceding speakers that dealers should not be discriminated against. I have never found the same feeling existing in other associations or any attempt to debar men from office simply because they were actively engaged in their professions.

MR. DUFFIELD: If the dealers desire representation on the Board of Governors or wish to hold other offices in this Association I would suggest that they nominate their candidates in advance and let the nominations go before the entire membership to be voted upon, and not bring the matter up at a convention when we have only a small number of members present.

MR. HENRY CHAPMAN: I may state that I made no canvass for election and knew nothing of my nomination until it was urged by Mr. McLachlan; but the fact that I received 46 votes was, I think, a very great compli-

ment and I appreciate it very much. Now, Mr. Green has asserted that if a dealer were on the Board and there was a dispute between a collector and a dealer, that dealer serving on the Board might be unable to give an unbiasd judgment. I have only to say that if I were on the Board I would decide the case justly as far as my own personal character would stand the test. I know of cases where it would have been an excellent thing for this Association to have had a dealer on the Board who knew the standing of the parties at issue and something about previous cases. I may add that you actually elected a man yesterday who is a dealer on a large scale and there are others of the same type who have already held office. The dealer is the man you need on the Board and you will all recognize this fact eventually.

MR. ARNOLD: I thoroughly indorse the views expressed by Mr. Chapman and firmly believe that dealers should be eligible to election for any office. I will now move that Mr. Low's statement be received, placed on file and that it appear in the proceedings of the convention.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Committee Reports.

Reporting for the Committee on Convention Exhibits, President Henderson, who was Chairman of the committee, said that all members attending the convention had seen the exhibits and that he had simply to add that the committee had done the best it could.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged.

Uniform Standards of Classification.

THE PRESIDENT: We will now receive the report of the Committee on Uniform Standards for classifying the condition of coins, Mr. Henry Chapman being the chairman.

MR. HENRY CHAPMAN: I made a report at the Montreal convention to the effect that we found it absolutely impracticable to arrive at any standard to which the dealers would adhere. It would be an excellent thing to fix a uniform standard, but it is utterly impossible. It is, of course, a very serious matter and I wish that something could be done to compel people to give truthful descriptions. I know, however, that this is very difficult when there is a defect in a coin. It is very hard to be truthful when a slight defect would take off half the value of a coin or medal offered for sale.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged.

Annual Dues and Initiation Fee.

THE PRESIDENT: The Board of Governors has recommended that the annual dues should be increased to $2 and that new members should be required to pay an initiation fee of $1. It is for the convention to decide whether this should be done.

MR. DUFFIELD: I move that beginning with the first of next year the dues be increased to $2 a year. The present dues are $1.50, which includes the official journal. While it is proposed that the Association should acquire and publish the official journal, there is a possibility that it may not. If it continues in private hands, the publisher, under the existing arrangements, will receive his $1.25 a year. This leaves us only 25 cents; while if the dues are increased to $2 we shall get 75 cents from each member.

MR. HUDSON CHAPMAN: I strongly approve of the initiation fee. The amount is not large and all similar associations require the payment of such a fee.

Mr. Nicklewicz said that he thought the increased annual dues and initiation fee might deter many people from joining, especially beginners in coin collecting.

Mr. Atkins said that although he had been a collector for many years he had never heard of the A. N. A. until it was mentioned to him by Mr. Zerbe, and he had been surprised to find what a valuable organization it was. He was also astonished to find that the membership was only about 500 and not 5,000. He had asked a dealer why it was that the Association had such a small membership. The dealer replied: "I have thirty customers who would readily join, but it has never seemed to me to be wise to invite them in. They would soon know as much as I know myself and it would spoil my business." That was not right. If the A. N. A. was to be purely a dealer's society the fact should be known. If every member of the Association would only make

B. H. SAXTON,
Elected First Vice President.

an effort to increase the membership it would soon reach 15,000 or higher.

MR. SEARS: I don't believe that there is any legitimate dealer in this country who would make such a remark as that quoted by Mr. Atkins. If you take the number of applicants for membership sent to our Secretary and figure them out in proportion with the names that are vouched for by dealers, you will find that the dealers make a very good showing.

(Mr. de Lagerberg here took the chair.)

PRESIDENT HENDERSON: I wish to put this matter before you in the way that the administration sees it and also to state that something has been done in the past which cannot be done in the future unless we have more revenue. Our dues have simply paid for the official organ and covered the expenses of the Secretary. The other officers have had to pay their ex-

penses out of their own pockets and some of these expenses are not small. It is an injustic to the future officers to pile the expenses of the administration on their offices and expect them to meet these expenses. If the annual dues are increased to $2, as Mr. Duffield has pointed out, we shall receive 75 cents from each member after the official journal is allowed for. That would provide sufficient funds for postage and printing and enable us to issue the membership medal. The Year Book has already been provided for, but only because 25 or 30 members came to the rescue and raised the money, and the Association is receiving the benefit of it. The men who are most active in doing the work of the Association are those that are paying the bills and that, of course, is quite unfair. If members of this Association receive any benefit they should pay for it and if not, drop it. The only way to get an equitable distribution of the expense necessary to carry on the Association is by increasing the dues and in five years from now they may have to be increased again.

(The President resumed the chair.)

Mr. Collins, commenting on President Henderson's remarks, said that he thought the price of $1.25 for the Numismatist was too high. Mehl's magazine was better and cost only 50 cents a year.

THE PRESIDENT: The Numismatist is our official organ and $1.25 is the lowest price at which we can get it. If we should acquire it all profits will accrue to the Association.

MR. DUFFIELD: While nobody thinks more highly of Mr. Mehl's Monthly than I do, still it should be remembered that his paper has only 16 pages while the Numismatist has 32.

On motion of Mr. Henry Chapman, which was duly seconded and carried, it was decided that the annual dues should be increased to $2 as recommended by the Board of Governors.

THE PRESIDENT: The initiation fee of $1 is now before the convention.

Mr. Duffield moved that beginning with the ensuing year an initiation fee of $1 be required by the Association.

Mr. McLachlan said he thought the proposed initiation fee might possibly deter many people, especially young collectors, from joining the Association. Many might be willing to pay $2, but would object to $3. At the same time the increased dues would keep out a certain class of people who merely attended the conventions and took no further interest in the Association.

MR. HUDSON: There was an unusually large number of members dropped this year for non-payment of dues, 106 I believe. These people were probably admitted too easily. They would not drop out if they were any good.

MR. DE LAGERBERG: While we are willing to admit young collectors to the A. N. A., it must be remembered that this Association is not an educator of school boys. Its members are men of high standing and the fees they pay ought to be commensurate with the importance of the organization.

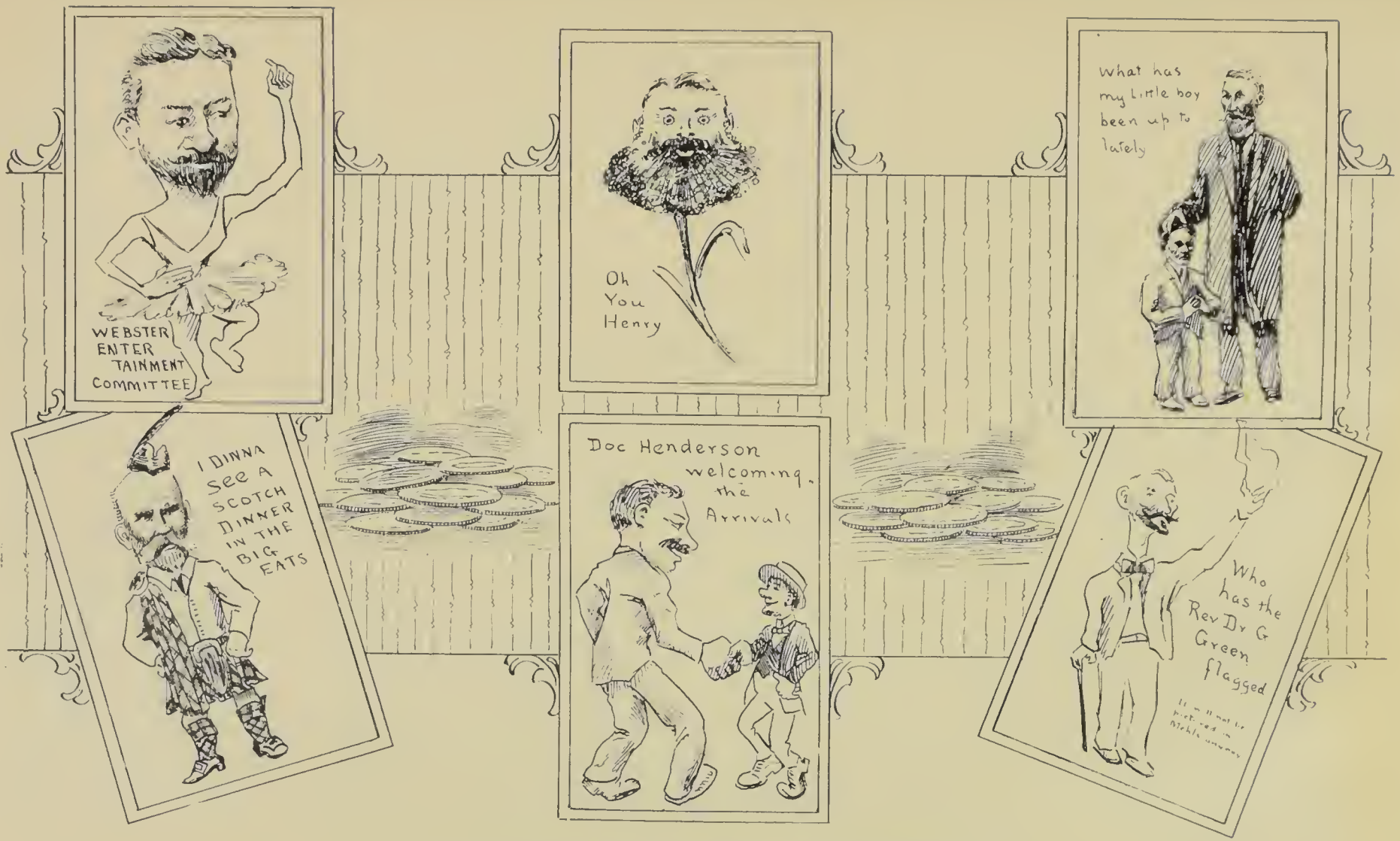
The motion to establish the initiation fee of $1 was then seconded and carried.

Election of Officers.

THE PRESIDENT: The election of Secretary and Treasurer, postponed from yesterday's session, is now in order.

Mr. Wood nominated Mr. George L. Tilden, of Worcester, Mass., for Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Duffield the nominations were closed and Mr. Tilden was elected by acclamation.


WEBSTER ENTER TAINMENT COMMITTEE
Oh You Henry
What has my Little boy been up to lately
I Dinna See A SCOTCH DINNER IN THE BIG EATS
Doc Henderson welcoming the Arrivals
Who has the Rev Dr G Green flagged

A FEW OF THE "SIDE LIGHTS" OF THE CONVENTION.

Mr. Chapman asked whether the offices of Secretary and Treasurer could not be combined in one. President Henderson replied that according to the constitution the two offices had to be kept separate.

Several members suggested that the constitution should be so amended as to enable one member to hold the two offices.

Nominations for Treasurer being called for, Mr. Sears added: "I understand from Mr. Tilden, who is well acquainted with Mr. Converse, that Mr. Converse is thoroughly reliable and holds an important position. I don't think we could do any better."

On motion, nominations were closed and Mr. Converse was elected by acclamation.

Committee Reports.

THE PRESIDENT: Resuming the reception of committee reports, there is one to be presented by the Committee on Association Badge, which was appointed at the Columbus convention. Dr. B. P. Wright was the chairman.

MR. WRIGHT: I have no report to make, for the fact is I could not get a harmonious opinion from the members of our committee, each man having an entirely different idea. I would suggest that you appoint a committee of one in whom you have confidence and authorize him to submit a design. From what I could learn, the die would cost about $20. You can get the badges in copper for 10 cents apiece, after the die is made, or $7 per thousand if taken in thousand lots.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged.

MR. HENRY CHAPMAN: As a member of that committee, I wish to say that I submitted designs for a badge which was favorably considered by many members. There was, however, a great difference of opinion as to what the badge was to be, some favoring a button, others a large badge, others again prefarring a new badge for each convention.

Mr. Sears suggested that a small metal badge be adopted with a new bar for each convention with the name of the city where held.

Mr. Low favored the adoption of a small gun metal button like the G. A. R. button, which would be inexpensive and would last for any number of years.

Mr. Henry Chapman suggested a small medal with the seal of the Association on one side and an inscription on the other with neat bars for each convention. It could be made of any suitable metal.

Mr. Niklewicz approved of this suggestion. He thought that such a badge would attract attention and might aid in increasing membership.

MR. DUFFIELD: Two or three days ago Mr. Higgins showed me a design made by the Whitehead and Hoag Company for a small button bearing the Association seal in miniature. The idea was to strike it with an enameled front and the cost would be about 60 cents apiece.

THE PRESIDENT: That would mean $150 for the dies and medals when struck.

MR. NIKLEWICZ: I move that a committee of one be appointed to receive and recommend a design for an Association badge or button and to report at the next convention.

MR. MICHAELS: I move as an amendment that the designs be submitted to the Board of Governors, who are to select the design and authorize the committeeman to arrange for the badge.

The amendment having been accepted and motion as amended was seconded and carried.

The President stated that he would name the Committeemen in the next number of the official journal.

Committee on Incorporation.

President Henderson called on Mr. Higgins, the chairman of this committee, to present a report.

MR. HIGGINS: Your committee has done a great deal of hard work in connection with this matter and it has also been placed in the hands of Mr. D. M. Webster, the attorney of the New York Numismatic Club, who has also made researches. We have had an extensive correspondence with the Presidnt and others. It has seemed, however, that in view of the changes required in the constitution and by-laws that the matter would have to be dropped for the present. I think it is advisable that my report should be supplemented by some remarks from Mr. Webster, who is thoroughly cognizant of the whole affair.

Mr. Webster stated that he had given much time and attention to the subject of federal incorporation and had consulted with several Congressmen and other persons in authority. There were great difficulties in the way of obtaining a charter from Congress and he was obliged to report that the prospects for it were not encouraging. This being the case, there remained the question of incorporating in one of the States. He explained that the laws of New York were especially favorable and for this reason here commended the incoporation of the Association under the laws of New York. It would be necessary to have a formal office in the State, but the real headquarters could be in any other place. The only conflict that might arise would be the similarity of the name of the American Numismatic Society, which was also incorporated under the laws of New York, but as one was a local and the other a national organization there would probably be no difficulty about it. Mr. Webster read the form of incorporation which would be necessary in New York. He then pointed out that among the advantages of incorporating the Association was the following: "Until incorporated the liability of the entire body rested upon each member. If a convention, for instance, voted that $1,000 should be paid to any man for any purpose and failed to pay it would be easy for such a man to select the wealthy members of the Association, sue them, get judgment and levy execution. If the Association were incorporated it could not be sued further than the assets of the incorporation, and individual members could not be sued. Mr. Webster further pointed out that a majority of the signers of the incorporation petition must reside in the State. The total cost of incorporation in New York, including attorney's fees, would be about $150.

On motion of Mr. Green the report of the committee was received with thanks and the committee discharged.

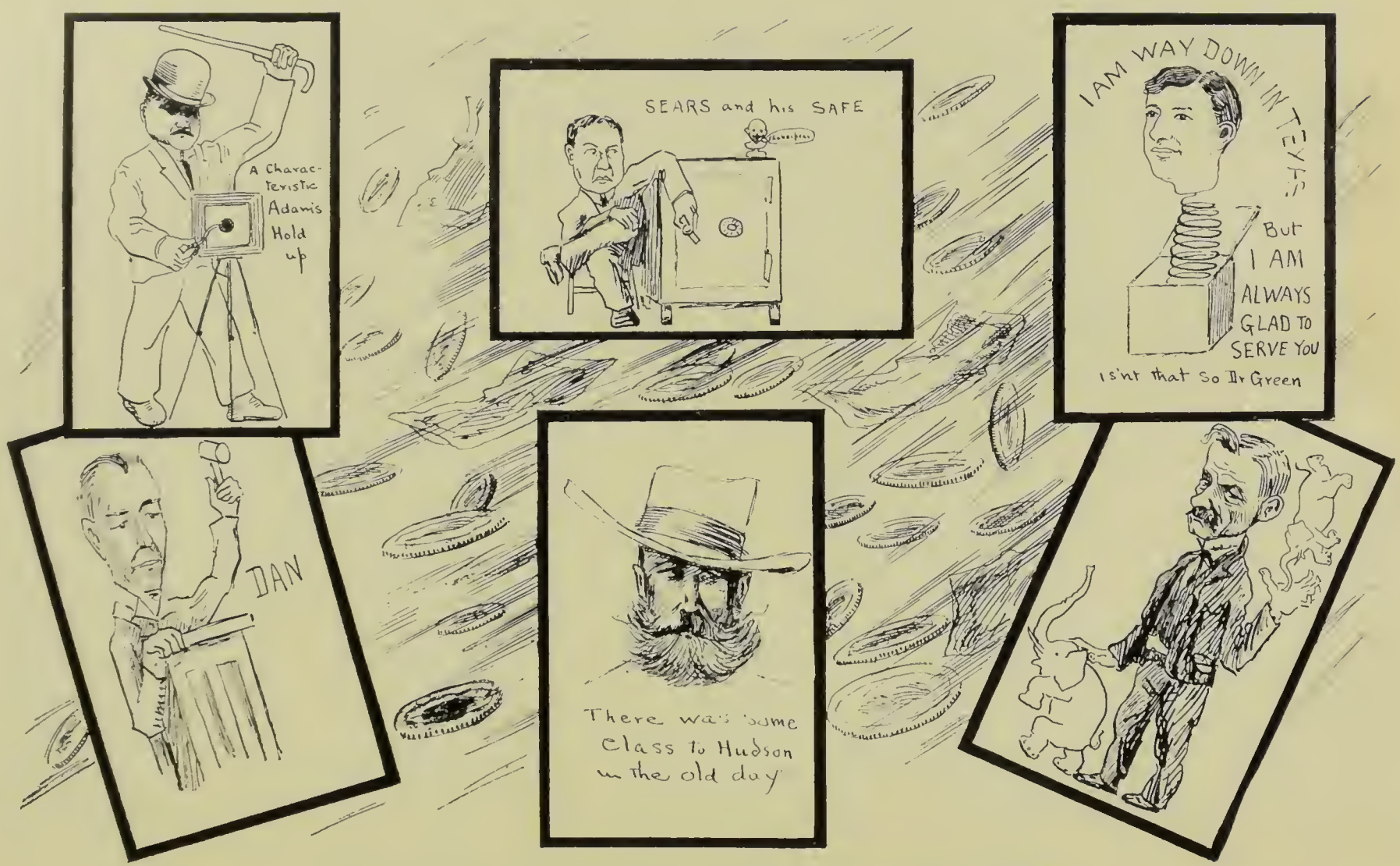
THE PRESIDENT: What is your pleasure now in regard to the incorporation?

Mr. Michaels called attention to the fact that in some of the Western States, notably Illinois and Minnesota, the charges for incorporation were much lower and would not exceed $25.

He moved that a committee of three living in the same vicinity be appointed with full powers to incorporate the A. N. A. either under State law or to secure a federal charter.

MR. CHAPMAN: It does seem to me that a charter is very essential. It has been represented to me that if a member of this Association were expelled for unbecoming conduct he could sue for damages and hold us individually responsible, but under a charter that would not be possible.

(Mr. Wood here took the chair.)


A Characteristic Adams Hold up
SEARS and his SAFE
I AM WAY DOWN IN TEXAS
But I AM ALWAYS GLAD TO SERVE YOU
Isn't that So Dr Green
DAN
There was some Class to Hudson in the old day

ANOTHER BUNCH OF "SIDE LIGHTS" AS SEEN AT THE ROMAN DINNER.

PRESIDENT HENDERSON, taking the floor, said: "Federal incorporation is extremely desirable and a majority of members are undoubtedly in favor of it. I think, however, that it is too important a matter to leave in the hands of any committee appointed here and for them to incorporate without further instructions, either under federal or some State law. A report has been presented today recommending State incorporation and asserting that it is practically impossible to obtain a federal charter. I do not agree with that view. There is a regular form of procedure for obtaining such charters from Congress and all that is necessary is to obtain sufficient influence to have it properly presented in the House or Senate. I have spoken with Mr. Ashbrook, a member of our Board, who is a Congressman, and he says there is a tendency at Washington to frown upon such legislation. He was, however, successful in obtaining a charter for a similar association and might be able to get one for our organization. There would be practicaly no expense, he says, excepting a nominal fee of ten or twenty dollars for the charter in case it was granted.

"To return to the motion before the convention, seems to me that it is giving the committee far too much power. It should simply be requested to report to the Board of Governors or the next convention.

(The President resumed the chair.)

Messrs. Niklewicz, Hudson Chapman and Wood heartily agreed with President Henderson's views and urged the advisability of obtaining a federal charter.

Mr. Hudson Chapman offered as an amendment to Mr. Michael's motion, that the committee collect and prepare all information concerning federal and State incorporation and submit it to the Board of Governors for approval and final action. The amendment having been accepted, the motion as amended was seconded and carried.

President Henderson said that he would appoint the committee later on and announce it in the official journal.

Report of Committee on Resolutions.

This report being called for by the President, Mr. H. Wood read a series of resolutions which contained a hearty expression of thanks to the New York Numismatic Club and its entertainment committee for the general hospitality extended to the Association and the splendid series of entertainments which had been arranged. The hospitality of the American Numismatic Society was also gratefully acknowledged. A special vote of thanks was also given to Mr. F. C. Higgins, President of the New York Numismatic Club, to Mr. A. R. Frey, Mr. D. M. Webster, Mr. Edgar E. Adams, Mr. D. R. Kennedy, Mr. B. L. Belding and Mr. Hudson Chapman for their tireless energy in making the convention an unqualified success. Thanks were also given to Mr. A. G. Heaton for his memorial poem on Dr. Heath to Dr. Henderson, President of the Association and to Mr. F. G. Duffield, Secretary, for their valuable services. The Whitehead & Hoag Company and Spink & Son were also thanked for their contributions and assistance.

On motion the report was received and adopted.

Revision of Constitution.

President Henderson called attention to the fact that the revision of the constitution was absolutely necessary and that incorporation under national or State laws could not be effected until this had been done. This committee might consist of the same members as would constitute the Committee on Incorporation or two separate committees could be appointed with the same

power to act. The revision committee would, of course, have to revise the constitution in accordance with the incorporation. The report could be submitted through the official organ or be distributed by circular accompanied by a voting blank so that each member could record his vote for or against the report.

MR. WOOD: I move that the personnel of this committee be the same as the Committee on Incorporation. The two committees are to be distinctly separate, but the same working body and there should be two reports from each committee.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The convention then adjourned until 9 a. m. Saturday, September 10.

FIFTH SESSION.

The convention was called to order at the Park Avenue Hotel at 10 a. m., Saturday, September 10th.

THE PRESIDENT: I announced yesterday that the Joint Committee on Revision of Constitution and Incorporation would be named in the official journal, as it was then supposed that we were about to finally adjourn. I am now able to appoint the committee, which will consist of Mr. Duffield—chairman of both committees—Mr. Williams, of Baltimore, and Mr. Fowler, of Chicago. This gives us two men who have served us faithfully for years; while Mr. Fowler, who is an attorney and has had great experience in drafting incorporation papers, has offered us his services free of charge. I may add that he is Secretary of the American Philatelic Society.

You will have the committee's report in due season and I hope that everyone will vote on the question. An effort will first be made to obtain federal incorporation, and if that fails some other plan will have to be adopted.

A paper entitled, "The First Paper Money of Canada," was read by Mr. R. W. McLachlan, of Montreal.

When Mr. McLachlan had concluded the reading of his paper, on motion of Mr. de Lagerberg a vote of thanks was given to him. Mr. Belden then rose and said: "I wish to say a word on behalf of the American Numismatic Society. We have been very glad to welcome the members of your Association to our building in a body, and I would like you all to know that we shall be equally glad to welcome any individual member at any time that he may be in the city and feels disposed to visit us." (Applause.)

President Henderson returned thanks briefly on behalf of the A. N. A.

The President next appointed Mr. H. Wood as a committee on the membership medal which he had stated at the previous session would be announced in the official journal.

Mr. Higgins stated that photographs of the convention had been taken by two photographers. The best of these photographs would be reproduced on a small scale in the official journal, Mehl's Monthly and Mr. Elder's paper, which would give members a good idea of the large originals. These could be obtained for one dollar each. The addresses of the protographers would be published and anyone desiring photographs could write to them.

Mr. Higgins added that he wished, before the convention adjourned, to express the great pleasure it had given members of the New York Numismatic Club to see how thoroughly their entertainments had been appreciated by the visiting delegates. Such appreciation was the highest compliment that a host could receive. The Entertainment Committee had worked very hard to make the festivities a success and the appreciative manner in which these had been received was a sufficient reward. The N. Y. N. C., reversing the usual

process, desired to give a vote of thanks to their guests for the appreciation they had displayed and had so freely expressed.

President Henderson, in responding, returned the thanks of the Association and expressed his personal appreciation of the bounteous manner in which the N. Y. N. C. had treated its guests. He especially desired to thank the Entertainment Committee, whose labors had been so arduous during the past week. "I will ask Mr. Higgins," he said, "to convey to the members of the club, at its next session, the sincere appreciation of the A. N. A. and the thanks of every member here assembled. We thank you, Mr. Higgins, and through you the N. Y. N. C. for the energetic and incessant work which has done so much to make this convention a success. We have been entertained so generously that we leave New York with the greatest reluctance and shall carry with us the most happy memories of our visit to this city."

On motion of Mr. Fowler a vote of thanks was given to all who had participated in the exhibited during the convention.

On motion of Mr. Woodsifer, the convention then adjourned sine die to meet in Chicago next year at the call of the Board of Governors.

THE CONVENTION ATTENDANCE.

The following members attended the convention: Edgar H. Adams, J. Everett Alden, S. B. Alexander, John W. Aitken, George C. Arnold, Miss Agnes Baldwin, Robert Bird, Henry Chapman, S. Hudson Chapman, Mrs. S. Hudson Chapman, Walter S. Chattin, Daniel A. Clark, D. L. Cleeland, B. H. Collins, Dr. E. G. Corteau, J. de Lagerberg, F. G. Duffield, Thos. L. Elder, Mrs. Thos. L. Elder, Henry A. Fowler, A. R. Frey, Harvey L. Garretson, H. O. Granberg, Ludger Gravel, Ben G. Green, Julius Guttag, A. A. Hawkes, Wesley H. Hayes, Dr. J. M. Henderson, Mrs. J. M. Henderson, Wm. Hesslein, F. C. Higgins, Gustave Jaegg, D. L. Kennedy, Rud Kohler, Theo E. Leon, Frank I. Liveright, E. J. Loer, Lyman H. Low, M. Careuson, R. W. McLachlan, B. Max Mehl, Mrs. B. Max Mehl, Fred Micheal, J. C. Mitchelson, H. R. Newcomb, Herbert Niklewicz, Sydney P. Noe, Nelson P. Pehrson, Wayte Raymond, Dr. E. P. Robinson, Hilyer Ryder, Wm. F. Schultz, Elmer S. Sears, Geo. A. Steele, A. M. Tierney, Geo. L. Tilden, C. O. Trowbridge, Everett Van Voorhis, N. Vreeland, James A. Walker, D. Macon Webster, Wm. A. Wiley, W. W. C. Wilson, C. H. Windmiller, D. A. Williams, P. M. Wolsieffer, Howland Wood, Dr. B. P. Wright, Carl Wurtzbach, Farran Zerbe.

Others attending were: Mrs. F. C. Higgons, Miss Millie Higgins, Mrs. Fred Michael and sister; Mrs. Geo. C. Arnold, Mrs. Wm. Hesslein, Dr. Kunz, Wm. Poillon, J. Keppel Hopkins, Pierre Gravel.

"GOODBY GRANT."

A western Kansas editor was recently told that the head of Lincoln appears on the silver half dollar, that the bust of Cleveland will be on the $10 certificate and that of Grant on the $50 ones.

"Is that all so?" he asked.

"You don't suppose I'm lying to you," replied his informant.

"Not at all, not at all," was the editor's reply. "I was not thinking along that line at all. I just wanted to be sure. I'll probably get a sight of Lincoln now and then, and it may be my rare and wondrous good fortune to occasionally scrape up a fleeting acquaintance with Cleveland. But Grant—dear Grant, goodby and God bless you."

The Social Features of the New York Convention

of the American Numismatic Association.

No more splendid headquarters have ever been enjoyed by an A. N. A. convention than those which were presented by the accommodations of the Park Avenue Hotel. Speculations of members as to whether that famous hostelry was really as attractive as some of the previously illustrated pictures had indicated were speedily set at rest by the more than exquisite reality. The membership began to assemble four or five days previous to the opening of the convention, and by the time the official registration was reached it was possible to count some 75 or 80 delegates from all parts of the country, who were mustered in the banqueting hall of the hotel, which was arranged temporarily as a convention hall. Here the registration, under the superintendence of Secretary Duffield of the American Numismatic Association and President Higgins of the New York Numismatic Club took place. The programmes, which were the size and shape of a railway folder, bearing the convention emblem, gave full particulars not only of the proceedings, but of the various functionaries whom the visitors might expect to encounter in their contact with the several societies taking part in the convention. One of the center pages of the programme was devoted to a beautiful portrait of Dr. Heath, with an inscription reminding members that all their enjoyments and privileges of the week should be attributed to the devotion of the good friend who had passed away in 1908. The badges were unusually pretty and most comprehensively arranged, so that entertainers and entertained, officers, committeemen and stewards and members of the several organizations might be easily identified. The officers of the American Numismatic Association were provided with bright red satin ribbon badges with the emblem of the A. N. A. printed thereon in gold, depending from bars upon which were lettered the official rank of the wearer. Officers of the New York Numismatic Club wore similar ribbons of blue satin printed in gold. Members of the A. N. A. wore a red button bearing the seal of the Association in gold, and members of the N. Y. N. C. the seal in gold on a blue button. The

H. O. GRANBERG,
Elected Chairman Board of Governors.

large percentage of wearers of both the red and the blue was remarkable. Committeemen and stewards wore ribbon badges of blue and gold similar to those of the officers, while all wore the convention emblem upon a white button from which depended ribands. The ladies of the party were not as numerous as on previous occasions, the most assiduous attendants upon the convention functions being Mrs. Dr. Henderson, Mrs. Higgins, Miss Higgins, Mrs. Mehl and Mrs. Elder.

Monday afternoon was spent at the American Numismatic Society Build-

ing, where every facility had been provided by courtesy of the American Numismatic Society for the most comprehensive and tasteful exhibition by members of the Association, the splendid collections of the society being available to all who had leisure to inspect them.

Monday Evening's Dinner.

The French dinner at the Cafe Martin, Monday evening, was largely attended and was voted one of the most delicious repasts of which those who attended it had ever partaken. The gathering enjoyed delightful orchestral music during the meal and prolonged the sitting until a late hour. Upon return to the hotel, the insomnia sufferers, who proved to be practically the entire male contingent, gathered in the tropical court of the hotel and partook of a huge bowl of claret punch and excellent cigars provided by the N. Y. N. C. for their guests.

Second Day's Social Functions.

The social functions of Tuesday opened with a delicious lunch of characteristic German national dishes at the Kaiserhoff Rathskeller, 37th St. and Broadway. The guests were seated in a double row at a table at least 100 feet long, at the head of which presided President Higgins with Dr. Henderson at his right. Numerous toasts and pledges were drunk in the sparkling brew of the fatherland, which flowed without stint at the general invitation of the N. Y. N. C. Sight-seeing automobiles then took up the crowd, carrying them the rounds of upper New York, where the Metropolitan Museum of Art and other noteworthy spots were visited.

The convention was closely followed by the reporters of several New York dailies, and the remarks on the somewhat chaotic state of the coin collection of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art were duly recorded on the following day. During the ride the delegates passed New York's champion coin collector, J. P. Morgan, out for an airing. The appearance of the beribboned conventioners outside of the Rathskeller, which marks the center of New York's famous "tenderloin district," was a source of great wonderment to the sports and temporarily resting actors who give that particular strip of pavement the designation of the Rialto, although it is a Rialto on which ducats in the summer season are less plentiful than on the Venetian original. It was told by one of the New York papers on the following day that the former jockey, Tommy Murphy, who happened along just as the convention were about to mount their automobiles, and noting the crowd asked the cause of it. "They are members of the Numismatic Association going on an outing," he was informed. "Once more on the 'nu'—what did you say?" asked Tommy, with a puzzled expression. "They're numismatists—coin collectors." "Well, I've known lots of coin collectors along Broadway in my time," said Tommy, "but it's the first time I ever heard the poor devils called a hard name like that."

The Roman Dinner.

Owing to the full nature of the afternoon's entertainment, the Roman dinner which had been scheduled for 6 o'clock was agreed upon to be postponed until 8 o'clock in order that the greater crowd than that expected might be entertained in the Pompeiian Garden of the Colaizzi Restaurant instead of in the ancient Roman room, as had previously been intended, the latter being turned into a reception room for the assemblage of the guests prior to the serving of dinner, which was accompanied by a vocal and orchestral programme of many choice and appreciated numbers by talented artistes. The Pompeiian Garden proved to be a veritable fairyland of interlaced boughs and trellis work laden with brilliant fruits, each of which was a colored incandescent electric light bulb, the vista through

the clever employment of mirrors seeming to prolong itself to infinity. The walls were decorated with hugs fac-similes of ancient Roman coins.

The Decorations of the Roman Dinner Menu Cards.

Immediately behind the table, presided over by Vice President Frey as ex-president of the A. N. A., and having such distinguished guests as Dr. Henderson, Dr. Wright and others to his right and left, was a more than life-size bronze statue of his majesty King Victor Emanuel III, honorary member of the A. N. A., which was the objetc of special honor on the part of those who assembled at 8 o'clock to the strains of the Italian National Anthem, followed by the Star Spangled Banner. The menu served was not the characteristic stereotyped table d'hote of the New York family resort, but an Italian dinner such as one would ordinarily have to travel across both Atlantic and Mediterranean to enjoy, being composed exclusively of the favorite peasant dishes of the various provinces of Italy, cooked and served in native style to liberal libations of Chianti Vecchio and Asti Spumante. At an appropriate moment during the course of the dinner Mr. Frey proposed the toast of the royal honorary member, which was drunk with all honor. President Higgins of the N. Y. N. C., in responding, gave an interesting account of the numismatic interest displayed by the King.

Mr. McLachlan of Montreal was called on for a few remarks, and in response gave an interesting account of the early days of copper coin collections in Canada.

The menu cards of the Roman dinner were one of the prettiest surprises experienced so far by the convention, having been specially designed for the occasion, bearing a series of three pictures illustrating the career of a Roman coin—its striking by the brawny moneyer of the temple of Juno, its concealment in time of trouble by a Roman soldier and its final examination in the cabinet of a leisurely numismatist of the present day, the whole being bound together by silken cords of the Italian national colors—red, white and green. Owing

to the lateness of the hour there were no insomnia victims for Kean's Chop House, but the gathering broke up long after midnight.

Wednesday, September 7.

On Wednesday the public exhibition of coins by Association members was largely attended by outsiders, and it is elsewhere described. A number of photographs of the convention were taken at noon, both inside and outside the building, by Mr. Headley of the New York Herald Art Department and Mr. Chas. F. Allen of 66 W. 93rd St., New York, both of whom can be relied upon by members at a distance who care to enclose a dollar each for any copies they may desire, the pictures being very large and interesting and reflective of the utmost good humor which reigned throughout the convention.

The ceremonial unveiling of the portrait of Dr. Heath before the convention and its presentation for a permanent resting place on the walls of the A. N. S. Building, after the reading of Mr. Heaton's exquisite poem, was of an extremely touching character and brought unmistakable tears to the eyes of all present. This was truly one of the most impressive moments of the entire convention and showed that Dr. Heath was not only beloved by those who had known him personally, but that the traditions of his noble character had wrought their impression on new members who had joined the Association since his name was its watchword.

In the Hispanic Society's Building the librarian, Dr. Martin, gave several hours unalloyed pleasure to a large concourse, whom he conducted amid the art treasures and antique historical relics therein preserved. The lunch and dinner partaken of during the day at Troeger's Hotel were most excellent and did credit to a painstaking host.

In the evening Mr. L. Hudson Chapman delivered his famous illustrated lecture on the coin cities of Sicily to a large and appreciative audience, displaying his usual remarkable knowledge as a leader of the imagination through foreign scenes with such a vigor of verisimilitude that one could almost imagine himself to be standing amid the scenes so graphically portrayed upon the canvas and in the well-chosen descriptions of the lecturer.

Thursday Sept. 8—Spanish Lunch and That Famous Chinese Dinner.

On Thursday following the election lunch was partaken of at the Spanish Restaurant of Messrs. Carreno & Nadal, where the Association was intiated into the delights of chili con carne, tamales a la Venezuelana, Bacalao vizcayena, etc. The afternoon was delightfully spent in a tour of historical lower New York, personally conducted by the chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Mr. D. M. Webster, who proved that nature had been unkind to him in having made him a great lawyer instead of the greatest tourist guide in the world. Mr. Webster displayed a familiarity with the historic associations of Gotham and an ability to pass the sacred portals of more than one establishment on which the open sesame depends upon position and influence.

The climax of the convention's social end may be said to have been reached in the Chinese dinner given Thursday evening at the Chinese Tuxedo Restaurant at the corner of Doyer's street and Chatham Square. The arrangements for this dinner had been under the supervision of President Higgins for several months past and it is safe to say that no such well drilled nor thoroughly skilled set of Chinamen in the art of entertaining a big numismatic convention had ever been seen between New York and Pekin since the world began. Manager Tam Ming of the Tuxedo, who is himself a scholarly and accomplished man, had been long entertaining and resolved to do the thing in the best

manner possible and lend a co-operation of personal interest and enthusiasm which those who have the habit of considering a Chinaman as a cold-blooded and unimpressionable proposition could scarcely understand. The banquet hall of the Tuxedo Restaurant was a blaze of gold and color, the walls being a solid mass of exquisitely carved and gilded wood worked into foliage, flowers, fruit, birds and animals overlaid with heavy gold leaf, the walls being decorated with large and valuable Chinese paintings and the cornices topped by large glass cases of huge waxen dolls dressed to represent historical signs among the empresses, heroes and heroines of ancient days. A numismatic touch was added by a lavish decoration of huge reproductions of Chinese coins—knife, key, pu, bridge and spade money, as well as the cash of early emperors and temple amulets, being hung about in profusion. Although the many individual tables were set in American fashion, President Higgins occupied, Chinese fashion, with his guests of honor, Dr. Henderson, Dr. Wright and Mr. Howland Wood of Boston, a magnificent estrade of carved teak wood, the tables of which were placed at the side of the guests instead of in front, and overshadowed by a colossal painting of the great Chinese god of literature and art, Kuan Kung, with his attendants, with before him burning a fragrant fire of sandal wood incense amid the ceremonial vases and drapings of the Chinese temple.

A Chinese orchestra was in attendance, under the leadership of Professor Cheng Hing, leader of the orchestra of the Chinese theatre, the delightful shrieks and shrill squeals of whose astounding musicians provoked alternate roars of laughter and thunders of applause. They received the guests to what was termed the A. N. A. Triumphal March, which sounded like the violent death of a thousand Kilkenny cats, followed by a touching Chinese sonata known as the Widow's Complaint, of which a witty Irishman remarked that he now believed he could tell why the soul of music fled from the Tara harp. He thought some Chinese Paderewski must have laid profane hands upon it.

The menu, which had been specially designed and drawn for the occasion by President Higgins, who specializes in the art of the Flowery Land, presented a huge golden dragon upon a red ground, bearing in his claws a knife coin and drawing in his train the first and last of the 20th Century long series of round and square holed Chinese cash, with the seal of the New York Numismatic Club rendered into Chinese, the same design being repeated on the inner corner in red, giving the Chinese names of the American Numismatic Association in native characters, accompanied by a translation in English.

The dinner proved to be irresistibly delicious and converted many who tasted Chinese food for the first time into fervent disciples of the celestial god of cookery. The course of the dinner was pleasantly interrupted by half a score of minor stunts, such as the presentation of distinguished guests with pretty oriental souvenirs, handed them by the two tiny Misses Wu of Canton, China in native costume—pretty little girls of seven and eleven years respectively—who had only reached New York from their native country the previous week, this being their first introduction into American society.

During the dinner also President Higgins presented Chinese renditions of the N. Y. N. C. button, to which were appended streamers of the Chinese national color for work in behalf of oriental numismatics, to Dr. B. P. Wright and Howland Wood, both for himself and for Dr. H. A. Ramsden of Yokohama, Japan, and to Mr. Tam Wei of Canton, China, a graduate of Cornell University, who was present at the dinner and most agreeable of entertainers of President

Henderson's party, both Mr. Ramsden and Mr. Tam Wei being announced as honorary members of the New York Numismatic Club.

The dinner was followed by an address delivered by President Higgins on the evident connection between the symbols of Chinese temple amulets and the religious symbols of western nations of antiquity, which indicated that all had at one time in the dim past fallen away from some central group of peoples who were united in the worship of the sun god, who is best known to us as the Apollo of the Greeks and Romans. It was illustrated throughout with illustrations of coins and monuments referred to.

Friday, September 9.

On Friday, following the final business session of the convention, the delegates proceeded by the Lackawanna Railroad to Newark, N. J., where they were greeted at the station by Mr. Frank I. Liveright of the N. Y. N. C. Entertainment Committee and Mr. A. S. Kirkpatrick of the Whitehead & Hoag Co., and conducted to the dining room of the Continental Hotel opposite, where another delicious luncheon was served to the party. An unexpected feature of this repast was its interruption by Vice President Frey, for the purpose of presenting to President Higgins, in recognition of his services to the club, the Association and the convention and general advancement of numismatic science, the unique gold copy of the presidential medal, bearing his portrait, which it had been intended to present to him at the last N. Y. N. C. meeting, but which unfortunately had not been completed in time. Mr. Higgins responded in a few words of deep feeling and appreciation.

The official visit to the establishment of the Whitehead & Hoag Co. furnished another of the wonderful successes of which the convention was but one long continued series. In this splendid establishment was shown every minute phase of the designing, engraving, die sinking, striking, sand blast finishing and assemblage of medals and badges of every character, and each step in the manufacture of the artistic medal being illustrated as the party passed through by the actual processes conducted under their eyes—an object lesson which no mint has ever furnished to such a party, and which was an absolute revelation to collectors who have been hoarding coins for years without suspecting the multiplicity of operations involved in the production of their treasures. Not content with the display of this supreme courtesy, the Whitehead & Hoag Co. then presented each member of the convention with a copy of the bronze medal struck in honor of this year's convention, which shows the seal of the N. Y. N. C. on one side and that of the A. N. A. on the other; each copy being numbered, lettered and dated on its edge for its complete identification with the event.

In the evening the management of Keau's Old English Chop House, the time-honored headquarters of the New York Numismatic Club, vied with all the caterers who had preceded them in the production of a splendidly served old English dinner, which was followed by the convention sale of nearly 700 choice lots of coins, medals, tokens and paper currency, the property of members of the Association—not mere junk thrown in to make a sale, but comprising some of the most magnificent ancient and medieval coins ever brought to the auction block in the City of New York, together with much choice Americana—the lots bringing uniformly good prices and the whole event constituting a source of the utmost satisfaction to both sellers and buyers.

Saturday, September 10.

On Saturday a large number of the convention members left for their homes, a sufficient contingent remaining behind to form a goodly party which, headed by President Henderson, visited the attractions of Coney Island, thus bringing to an end what has proved the most successful convention which the A. N. A. has ever known, in spite of its many splendid predecessors.

Convention Notes

By a "Conventionite."

If you happened to be in New York the first part of September and saw one or more fine looking men with red, white and blue buttons and ribbons on the lapels of their coats, you would know they were numismatists, because you are wise, but others may not be so fortunate. The various convention buttons and badges made quite a show and on Labor day attracted much attention, various members were stopped and asked what Union they represented, girls called out asking for them for souvenirs, and small boys followed in the wake of any party of A. N. A. men.

A few bronze copies of the New York Numismatic Club presidential medal, which bears the same reverse as the convention medal, may be had from Mr. Daniel F. Kennedy, Secretary of the N. Y. N. C., 255 West 92nd Street, New York, at the price of $2.50, post free. Only 100 of these were struck.

There were many surprises at this Convention, but the chief of these were the number of supposedly temperance members that drank beer. Not short ones, but the real genuine boot legs. We, however, will not give them away.

Where was the bulk of the entertainment committee? Sears certainly took the white man's burden on that score.

It is said every one enjoyed his caricatures but one man; he said he never wore those kind of clothes.

When the convention medals were assigned, Dr. Henderson got number one hundred; his wife got number fifty, the better half.

They certainly got Higgins' goat at the dinner in Newark, when he was presented with a gold medal. When he has nothing to say, you know he is hard hit.

Down with the rumor that the A. N. A. was low in funds. The treasurer's report showed a balance of much more than last year. Williams certainly is an honest treasurer.

The Chinese Banquet was a love feast for fair. The lamb, the wolf, the bear and several other animals of various ilk lay down side by side and made up. In some cases the seemingly impossible was accomplished.

Did you ever try to move a bunch of men earnestly talking? If not, try and start a group of A. N. A. men when they are talking coins. A meeting scheduled at 9 o'clock could not get started till after ten. Verily the loud, cheerful voice of Gravel was missed at this convention with his "All aboard." He was there, but he was not the starter this time.

Copies of the convention medal may be had from Messrs. Whitehead & Hoag Co., corner Washington and Warren Streets, Newark, N. J. Price of numbered copies in bronze for bronze for members of the A. N. A., $2.15 each, post free. For non-members, $3.50. Only 200 struck. Copies in sterling silver, only 20 struck, $5.15 each, post free, until supply is exhausted.

Chicago showed up strong, nine strong. Three cheers for Chicago. Let us reciprocate by all being at the Chicago Convention next year. What became of Leon—that is the question.

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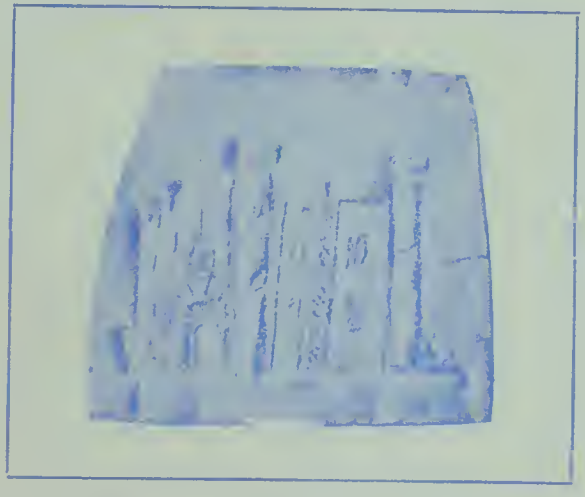

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Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, OCTOBER, 1910 No. 10

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

ENGLISH SIEGE PIECES

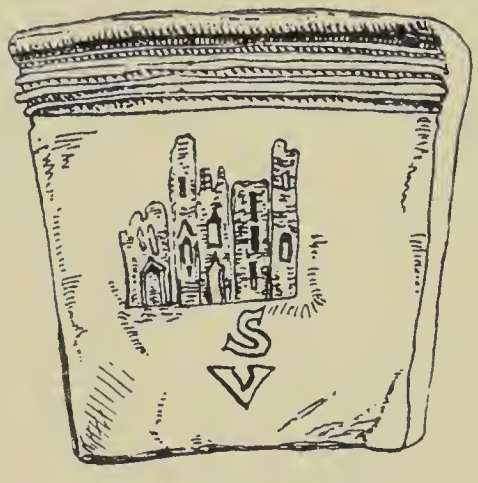
RELICS OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1642-49

By EDWARD F. HERDMAN.

Scarborough and Pontefract.

Among the out of the way coins to be met with, obsidional, or siege pieces, form a small though highly interesting, and, it may be added, valuable group. The period during which these pieces were issued, goes back to the troublous times of the great civil war of 1642-49, when strife and blood shedding were the ruling passions in the country. The conflict between King Charles I. and the Parliamentarians, is, of course, an historical matter, and does not concern us as numismatists, except that out of it arose the necessity for the issue of coins for the use of the beleaguered forces of the king. In fact, all obsidional money, as its name implies, owes its origin to circumstances of a similar kind. A castle or town is invested, the inhabitants are cut off from the ordinary methods of obtaining the current coin of the realm or state, and consequently the necessity arises for money wherewith to pay the garrison, and if the seige be not too closely held, to purchase supplies. Dies more or less appropriate to the occasion are made, and pieces struck from them upon whatever metal is available.

But money of necessity has not been issued solely in the form of coins. It is to be found in notes or paper currency, and, so recently as the last Boer war, in the "Mafeking Besieged" postage stamps.



Scarborough

The English siege pieces were however chiefly struck upon pieces of domestic silver plate, which had either been freely presented by partisans for the good of the cause, or looted from the enemy. Upon some of the pieces (see Fig. 1) can be seen the ornamental rim of the plate from which it

has been cut. There appears to have been some attempt to adjust the value of the coins to their weight, and consequently such odd denominations as 2-10, 11d., 7d. and 4d. were issued. It follows that the shapes of the coins were a matter of indifference to the militant issuers, so long as the sinews of war were obtained.

Scarborough Castle was a stronghold which withstood two sieges from the Parliamentary forces. The first of these, which lasted a whole year, was not less remarkable for the gallant defense made by the governor —Sir Hugh Cholmely, than for the heroic spirit displayed by his lady. Here some extraordinary obsidional coins were issued, ranging from the huge five shilling pieces (Fig. 1) to the modest fourpence. All bear the rugged impress of the grim old castle, which is still to be seen in all its ruined grandeur.

The denominations of the Scarborough pieces, so far as are known are 5|-, 3|-, 2|10, 2|4, 2|-, 1|- and 4d. The crown piece is illustrated, Fig. 1. Upon the reverse of the two-shilling piece is a very good representation of the castle, occupying nearly the whole of the space of the coin. The other values are described for the information of collectors.

Three Shillings—Uniface. View of Scarborough Castle, with gateway to left; beneath S-111, struck upon an octagonal piece of household silver plate. Weight 246 grains.

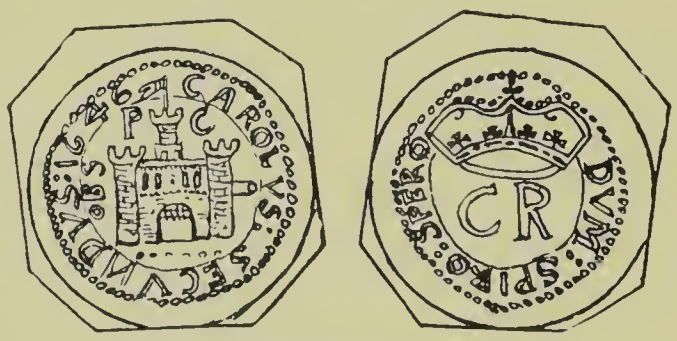
Two Shillings and Ten Pence—Uniface. View of the castle as before; below S—11, D—VV, also cut from a piece of silver plate. Weight 200 grains.

Two shillings and Four Pence—Uniface. View of castle; beneath S —11, D—111, struck upon an oblong piece of silver which has been cut from a circular plate or dish, the raised or reeded rim of which is seen remaining. Weight 180 grains.

Two Shillings—Weight 155 grains. There is a variety of this, inscribed OB|SCARBOROUGH|1645.

Shilling—Uniface. View of the castle as before; beanth S—1, struck upon silver plate with raised rim. Weight, ranging from 96 to 110 grains.

Four Pence—Similar to the last, but inscribed D—1111. Weight, about 40 grains.



Pontefract

There are other pieces of the like denominations, but they vary only in shape, weight and minor details. All the Scarborough pieces are of considerable rarity, and the collector who possesses a specimen of any one of the values is indeed fortunate. The prices realized at auction for some of the coins are:

		£	S.
3|-	Piece	33	10
2|10	Piece	43	10
2|4	Piece	43	10
2|-	Piece	44	10
1|-	Piece	24	10

Pontefract was another Yorkshire castle held for the king. Colonel Morris, the governor, after the execution of Charles I., continued to hold out against the Parliamentary army for

about seven weeks, and during that time had the unique distinction of coining obsidional money in the name of Charles II. The Pontefract pieces are interesting in their warlike appearance. One type shows the business end of a cannon projecting from one of the flanking towers of the castle; another shows a hand grasping a sword. On some of the pieces the king's flag can be seen proudly streaming in the breeze from the central tower of the castle.

At least one of the denominations is known to have been issued in gold. This unique piece—a Unite—is illustrated at Fig. 2. It realized 120 pounds (about $590.00) at the Montagu sale, being purchased by Mr. Murdock. At the sale of the latter's collection in 1903, the same piece brought 150 pounds, and was acquired by an American collector.

Two shillings and one shilling lozenge shaped pieces, dated 1648, were also minted. The obverse of these bear a similar legend to the gold Unite, excepting that the crown above C. R. is smaller. The reverse bears a similar view of Pontefract Castle, but to the right there is a hand holding and upright sword instead of the cannon, and the date is placed below the castle. No legend.

Several varieties of the shilling are to be found, one being exactly similar to the Unite. Another has to right of castle (which has no flag) P. C. XII., instead of the hand holding the sword. One of the types is illustrated at Fig. 4. It is struck upon an octagonal flan, and weighs 80 grains. The king's French title, which appears on some of the coins, is omitted from this piece. The Pontefract money is not so rare as that of Scarborough, prices for the shilling ranging from 5 pounds to 2 pounds each, according to type and condition.

Obsidional coins were also minted at the castles of Beeston, Carlisle, Colchester and Newark. These will be dealt with in a future paper.

Communications

Toronto, Ont., October 6th, 1910.

Editor of Mehl's Numismatic Monthly.

At the recent convention in New York, speaking of the annual dues, Mr. de Lagerberg is reported as saying:

"While we are willing to admit young collectors to the A. N. A., it must be remembered that this Association is not an educator of school boys. Its members are men of high standing, and the fees they pay ought to be commensurate with the importance of the organization."

I regret that Mr. de Lagerberg, one of the Board of Governors of the A. N. A., should have shown his indefference to the claims of the young collectors and school boys; it is to such that we must look for our future members, and the best way to make a good collector is to catch him when young.

Mr. Howland Wood, in the "History of The A. N. A.," in the Year Book just published, says:

"The foundation on which the A. N. A. was built was laid that month by the following sentence: **'The Association must be primarily in the interest of the great class of less advanced and beginning collectors.'"**

This was Dr. Heath's aim, and he never lost sight of it—he was always ready to welcome the young collector and school boy—and recognized the fact that the work of the A. N. A. must be primarily effective. S. S. HEAL.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE EDITOR.

We sincerely trust that our readers will be kind enough to overlook the tardiness of the last two issues of the Numismatic Monthly. The editor "shot" for home immediately after the convention, and much of the convention news was prepared while on the way "down to Texas." We have endeavored to make the Convention Number a creditable one and in keeping with our past records for excellent Convention Numbers, but the haste required for a prompt issue caused a number of illustrations to be omitted. But the full reports of both the business and social features were given.

About eight pages of Convention news was crowded out of our last issue, some of which, especially the Society reports, we publish in this issue, while these are not now strictly up to date, they are published for the benefit of our many readers who desire to have a complete record of the proceedings of the various Numismatic Societies.

THE YOUNG COLLECTOR AND THE A. N. A.

Among the important matters brought before the last A. N. A. Convention was the increase of dues from $1.50 to $2.00 and the establishment of an initiation fee of $1.00 While this seems to have been necessary in order to meet the expenses of the Association, the members advocating this did not, we believe, realize the hindrance this will be to securing the younger collectors into our ranks.

The American Philatelic Society has been enjoying a tremendous prosperity; boasts of a membership of more than seventeen hundred active members; possesses several thousand dollars in its treasury, and its membership dues is only $1.20 per year. Why can not the American Numismatic Association do as well on a fee of $1.50?

We now have several Numismatic Societies for the advanced collector, but what we must maintain is an Association that will assist and encourage the new collector.

We would be pleased to have A. N. A. members freely express their views on this important topic.

MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY AND THE OFFICIAL ORGAN.

During the editor's tour of the North and East the past few months, he was surprised to note the unaccountable impression prevailing among some of the A. N. A. members to the effect that this magazine was aspiring to serve the American Numismatic Association as its official organ. Why this impression should prevail is beyond the comprehension of the editor. The editor-publisher of the Numismatist—the present Official Organ of the A. N. A., as well as the other officers of the Association, are fully aware that the liberal space always given in the Monthly to A. N. A. affairs is done for the purpose only of advancing the interest of the Association, but if these efforts have been taken by some in another light than in which they have been intended, I wish to set them right, and state that the intention of ever having this magazine serve as the Official Organ of the A. N. A. never entered the mind of the editor. While the Monthly is always ready and willing to offer the liberal use of its columns for anything which may tend to increase the interest of our Association, it is so done without any selfish motive in view.

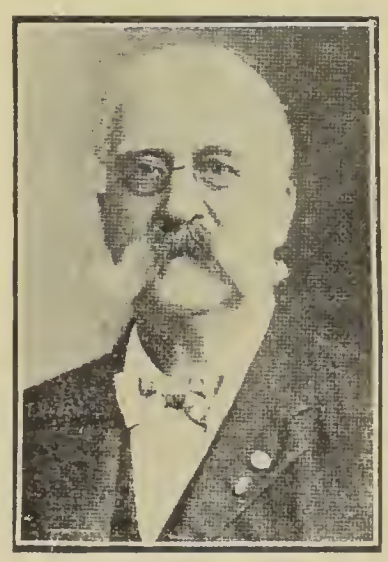
The Government Seizes Rare Coins

"Pattern Pieces" Claimed as U. S. Property—Captain Haseltine to Fight for Rights.

Valuable Information in Regard to Pattern Coins Brought Forth by This Controversy.

Not in more than a score of years, probably, has Government action regarding what is claimed as "public property in private hands" aroused deeper interest and more caustic comment than a case in which legal steps have recently been taken and which, it is believed, is to come up for trial in the United States Circuit Court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania early this fall.

As yet the facts are known to very few persons, and while they are of interest to every coin dealer and "advanced" collector in the world, they are of such a character as to interest, also, every lawyer and, as well thousands of persons quite outside of these two classes.



CAPT. JOHN W. HASELTINE

"Pattern and Trial" Coins.

No coin collection with pretensions to completeness lacks "proofs"—pieces struck with every care from oiled dies and sold by the mint at an extra price. All of these brilliant specimens of the coiner's art are scarce and many of them are now obtainable only when some fine collection is disposed of under the hammer of the auctioneer. The "pattern piece" is different and far and away more valuable, being a specimen in any hard metal, having a design or type for a coin other than that which has been in use, or similar to type in use, but with some change in design or inscription; or an adopted design, but bearing a date prior to the year in which they were first coined for circulation.

Then, there are "experimental pieces," being those struck from the regular coinage dies in some experimental metal or alloy; "trial pieces," being those struck from either regular or "pattern" coin dies in soft metal, to "try" the dies (and as studies for the engraver), being im-

pressions from the regular coin dies in a hard metal, or in an alloy, of a weight or of a fineness other than prescribed by law.

Numismatists are apt to classify all the foregoing, for convenience sake, as "patterns." Besides those mentioned there are "mules" or "hybrids," being those pieces struck from regular coinage dies, but with an obverse, or a reverse, or both, other than that authorized by law for the regular coinage of that denomination or differing from the regular coinage of the same denomination of the same date.

"Pattern Pieces" Rare.

"Pattern pieces," then, as a matter of course, are eagerly sought for and are valued, just as curios and art objects, according to their rarity; and when a "pattern" coin (or any coin not a "pattern") is unique, or nearly so, its value goes up to figures which astonish the uninitiated.

The Rare and Popular Pattern Flying Eagle Dollar.

Early in this year, in the course of business, Captain John W. Haseltine, Philadelphia's oldest coin dealer, consigned to J. H. Manning, of Albany, N. Y., a lot of "pattern" coins, twenty-four in number. These were pieces which were of moderate value, and all bore dates previous to 1887. One month later the consignment was returned by express and the instant it was received and receipted for it was seized by agents of the Government, who had followed the expressman for this purpose, it being claimed that there was no authority for the sales of such pieces.

Mr. Haseltine at once employed attorneys to protect his property rights and through them made prompt reply, claiming that the seized pieces were in no sense "illegally" sold, but that they were legal sales and that he was the legal owner of the pieces; and, being a fighter and a gallant defender of his country in the dark days of 1861, when fighting meant something, he had but to draw lightly upon his forty years' experience in his chosen business to furnish facts and to make citations from Government documents supporting his assertions.

The consignee, in Albany, it seems, wrote to the Director of the Mint, describing the pieces received by him from Haseltine, and asking information as to the number struck, etc. The director replied: "An examination of the records of the bureau reveals no authority for the issue of these pattern pieces. * * * Since the passage of this act of 1873 there has been no authority of law for the distribution of experimental or pattern pieces, and any such pieces as have been removed from the Mint have been taken without authority. No title has passed to any individual, and the pieces are still the property of the United States."

Mint Has Sold Pieces.

This position, it is believed, is untenable. From the official documents it is demonstrable easily that through the Mint the Government has sold pattern pieces to the public; and one authority says: "It has been esti-

mated that in 1859 and 1860, $50,000 worth of pattern coins were struck and disposed of at the Mint without any benefit to the Government, at whose expense they were coined." This statement was quoted in 1887, by the Director of the Mint.

In 1871 the chief coiner of the Mint said: "From all that I can learn it was customary in former years to restrike a limited number of pieces from old dies to oblige collectors and others, and whilst there is no law against the practice, it is liable to abuse, and perhaps it is well that the destruction of all the old dies and hubs has entirely removed this temptation." This destruction of dies, the coiner stated, took place in 1869, and

Morgan's Beautiful Pattern Dollar in Silver.
An Extremely Rare Coin.

embraced many old and valuable dies dating from about 1800 to 1855. The Mint regulations, in effect July 1, 1866, prohibited the striking of coins after the year dated. Patterns were to be struck in proper metal only, and were to be sold within the year dated only.

In spite of "regulations" coins, and not a few of them, were struck in false metal. Several sets for 1868 were struck in aluminum by order of the Secretary of the Treasury, and in 1871. Mason & Co., a Philadelphia firm of coin dealers, advertised a set of sixteen pieces, one cent to $20, in aluminum. In fact, mint regulations, it seems, made distinct provision for the striking and distribution of pattern coins at the order of the Secretary of the Treasury. In his report for 1887, the Director of the Mint said: "Nothing had occurred previous to the last half of the fiscal year of 1887 to raise a question as to the legality and propriety of certain precedents and practices, * * in the matter of the production and disposal for numismatical purposes, of pieces to which the term 'pattern' has been colloquially * * * applied."

Up to June, 1887, pattern coins had passed into the hands of private owners, and, of course, dealers dealt in them unquestioned. In June, 1886, the fine collection of Dr. E. Maris, abounding in "patterns," was sold at auction in Philadelphia, without objection or interference. Every great collection of coins sold at auction for years back has contained "pattern" coins, and one of these sales was that of James B. Longacre, in January, 1870, a collection which contained many "patterns." Longacre was for many years chief engraver at the Mint. Two "pattern" in gold ($50 pieces for 1877) were brought to light only last year, and, being so rare that their existence was not even suspected, they brought large prices.

Government Loses Out.

Dr. H. R. Linderman, a coin expert and a lover of numismatics, was chief clerk of the Mint 1855 to 1864, and Director of the Mint 1867 to 1869. Naturally enough, his coin collection was a fine one, and when it was sold in 1888 the Government looked with such greedy eyes upon the pattern pieces therein that its sale was de-

layed many months. Finally the Government, it seems, decided that it "had no case," and the valuable pieces were sold at auction in February, 1888. This collection, containing 1888 "lots," including over 200 "pattern pieces," the whole bringing for Dr. Linderman's estate the sum of $1,843.28.

Another great collection was the Parmelee, which contained 253 "lots," described as "Patterns issued by the U. S. Mint." This sale was held in June, 1890, and there was not the slightest effort by the Government agents to interfere with the sale, it having been approved by the U. S. Treasury. Nor has interference been heard of in connection with the sale, public or private, of the thousands of "pattern pieces" which have been disposed of from, say, 1888 to the present year, and the sale of "pattern pieces" by foreign governments, moreover, to coin collectors, is going on today. Abroad, as here, these peculiar pieces are frequently "gems" of the engraver's art; oftentimes they are finer, decidedly, as to the workmanship, than the designs finally fixed upon for circulation.

There seems to be general, if not universal, acquiesence in the doctrine that, with his own chattels, one can do as he likes.

The present objections of the Government have been due, it is said, to Dr. A. Platt Andrews, who became Director of the Mint less than a year ago. The point, however, upon which the present case rests seems to be one of law; and if the original owners of these "pattern pieces" obtained them from the Mint under the forms of law it would seem most extraordinary now to attack the title of innocent owners whose possession of this peculiar property has remained undisturbed for perhaps a generation. One man, a former publisher, referring to the Government's suit, said: "Why, as to some of these pieces, the United States has waited too long; for undisputed possession of real estate, e. g., quiets title in say 21 years."

What the Rules Say.

In the Rules: Mint of the U. S. July 1, 1866, paragraph 3 states: "Any experimental or pattern pieces can be obtained at the Mint within the year of its date, but not after. Standing orders for such pieces will be registered and attended to. Any patterns that remain on hand at the end of the year must be defaced; it is not desirable to make them as common as the proofs of regular coinage." And paragraph 4 says: "The price of a pattern coin in any but precious metal will be $3 in currency; if in gold or silver, the value of the metal is to be added. * * The Director reserves the right to send a pattern piece, without charge, to any incorporated Numismatic Society in the United States. In such cases, if the 'pattern' is in gold or silver, the value of the metal will be expected." And as to "proofs," these "Rules" continue: "To suit the convenience of many payment may be made in the currency equivalent." In paragraph 6 Director Linderman adds that the profits of this whole department are reserved to the Medal Fund "and are not to be the perquisite of any person holding a place in the Mint. All such persons are expected to refrain from dealing in this line or affording to aid friends or dealers out-

The Four-Dollar Gold Piece.

A Pattern Coin which has been in great demand and whose price has been steadily advancing for the past few years.

side." And the "Regulations" of 1874 in like manner refer to the manufacture and sale of medals, proofs and pattern pieces, and paragraphs 7 and 8 state distinctly that: "Proof coins and pattern pieces may be struck and sold subject to these regulations;" and "the price of medals, proof coins, pattern pieces, etc., shall be fixed by the superintendent of the Mint." Paragraph 12 declares that "A statement of the medals and pattern pieces struck and sold each year will be forwarded to the Director of the Mint at the close thereof."

Suspicion of Laxity.

In 1887 there seems to have been a suspicion of laxity or favoritism in the matter of these beautiful and rare specimens, and there was a perceptible stiffening of the rules, but there was no change in the practice of selling and giving away these rarities. These "patterns" were passed over the counter at the Mint, and copies were supplied to congressional committees, to officers of the Mint, to ascertain other specified persons and to "any incorporated numismatic society in the United States, and this without warning as to reselling by the recipient, and also the curator of the Mint exchanged pieces of this character in the Mint's collection for rare coins, which the Mint desired. All through the various "rules" of the Mint for years, particularly until 1887, the specimens now claimed as Government property were sold as plainly and indisputably as paintings and pianos are sold, and there was no suspicion of any flaw in the title, and hence the attack of the Government, after years of quiescence, is viewed with amazement. Captain Haseltine believes that it is immoral—preposterous, indeed—for the Goevrnment to sell, without conditions or warnings against reselling, these "specimens" (some of which repose today in coin collections throughout the world), and to seek now, by legal procedure, to compel owners to surrender property to which they obtained title properly. A citizen should not be made to suffer for acts which the Government has itself permitted and invited.

Captain Haseltine's attorneys have asked for the return of his property, and that their client be given damages and costs, and numismatists, philatelists and thousand of other persons are eagerly awaiting the outcome.

U. S. TO SUSPEND COINING GOLD FOR EUROPE'S USE

Saving of $500,000 a Year to Be Made in Mint Expenses—Bills to Be Issued Against Bullion.

Washington, Sept. 2.—Coinage of gold in the United States will be suspended for an indefinite period, if plans now forming in the Treasury Department are adopted. The idea is to issue gold certificates for all gold bullion and foreign coin turned into the mints, instead of coining them into eagles and double eagles. It is understood that Treasurer McClung in his annual report will endorse the plan, which was originated by A. Platt Andrew, now Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, when he was a director of the mint.

Two reasons for such a step are pointed out. The first is to save from $300,000 to $500,000 a year in mint expenses. The second is to stop coining gold at the expense of the United States for the convenience of foreign money markets, which use it for the settlement of commercial balances.

George L. Tilden

General Secretary-Elect of the American Numismatic Association.

SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Expressly Prepared for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By ELMER S. SEARS.

George Leon Tilden was born in Worcester in 1873. The early part of his life was spent on a farm, and after leaving school he entered the tailoring business as an apprentice, learning the business thoroughly. He became interested in coins about six years ago, joining the A. N. A. about a year after, and became a very ardent numismatist. His specialties are the minor coins and the series of silver half dimes, of which he has a very important knowledge and a very fine collection, specializing in all varieties of this very interesting series.

GEORGE L. TILDEN

He is now owner and proprietor of Tilden's Handy Telephone Index, which is published for the City of Worcester several times a year. On November 10, 1909, he became a benedict, marrying a Miss Williams of South Boston, and he tells the writer that, barring the day he was born, this was the most exciting event in his life. He has an office in the business district of Worcester, at 377 Main Street, where he is always pleased to meet any of his numismatist acquaintances or anyone interested in the science, and the writer can vouch for the fact that if anybody will take the time to go in and call upon him he will find him a most gentlemanly and agreeable companion. The society should be congratulated upon securing such a worthy successor to Mr. Duffield as Secretary for the Association, and the interest of the Association will be well looked after so long as Mr. Tilden remains in office.

Mr. Duffield's Views on the New York Convention of the American Numismatic Association.

Mr. B. Max Mehl,

Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Sir—You have asked me to give your readers my opinion of the New York Convention of the A. N. A. and the work accomplished by it.

It was a great week—a royal reception by the New York Numismatic Club and the American Society; a good, harmonious convention, with splendid entertainment on all sides.

The one thing above all others which impressed me forcibly was the large attendance of members who have never before been present at a convention. (The faithful ones were also there, of course.) This augurs well for an increasing interest in the Association, and when we consider that about 40 per cent of the membership was either present or represented by proxy, and that, so far as I can learn, no effort was made by anyone to collect any considerable number of proxies, the interest is all the more apparent.

The increase in dues to $2 a year was inevitable. The wisdom of this was questioned by some and the argument advanced that the increase might cause a number to resign. My experience as General Secretary leads me to believe that the great majority of our members are of a class who do not or will not object to any reasonable increase, provided the needs of the Association and the contemplated work in the near future require it. As proof of this it may be stated that beginning with 1909 the dues were increased from $1 to $1.50, and the close of that year found the Association with the largest membership in its history.

The establishment of an initiation fee of $1, while it may have the effect of lessening the number of applications, will guarantee, to some extent at least, a more permanent membership.

The proposed Dr. Heath Memorial Medal which the Association will shortly issue is none the less fitting merely because it has been delayed. Immediately on the death of Dr. Heath the matter was proposed and discussed, but was temporarily abandoned because of lack of funds.

The proposition for publishing the official organ by the Association was not carried out, the matter being left with the Board of Governors. While this may be a disappointment to many, conditions were such that it was thought best to postpone action on the matter for a short time at least.

The action of the convention in deciding to incorporate is, in my opinion, wise, and unless something unforeseen should occur, incorporation will be a reality before the next convention. This will carry with it a thorough revision of the constitution and by-laws, which experience has shwn to be necessary.

The relation of the dealer to the Association was the subject for a lengthy discussion at one of the sessions. The question of the advisability of a dealer holding office in the Association has been brought forward at all recent conventions, but my impression is that this is the first time it has been discussed in open session. While I believe that sentiment among the members is strongly against the dealer holding office (except that of District Secretary), and this opinion has been formed by my correspondence with members during my service as General Secretary, it is a subject of much importance, and I would suggest that you open the columns of your monthly for a discussion of

the subject, as you have always shown a disposition to publish anything which may tend to advance the interests or strengthen the position of the A. N. A.

The Association should congratulate itself upon inducing President Henderson (much against his own inclination, I am sure,) to accept a re-election. My relations with him during the past year have been very close, and I believe all his official actions are prompted by a single consideration—the welfare of the Association. His second year as President should be more successful than his first.

The new General Secretary, Mr. George L. Tilden, will, I believe, fully meet the expectations of the convention. At the best the office is one only of hard work, and the Association is really fortunate in securing a man who is willing to make the sacrifice of time the duties of the office require. That Mr. Tilden will "make good" there is no doubt.

The coming year will be the most important in the history of the Association. Officially it is well equipped to carry out the work before it. With the co-operation of all, the Association can be made a still greater force in the numismatic world.

And Chicago will welcome us with open arms in 1911.

F. G. DUFFIELD.

Baltimore, Md., September 12, 1910.

Hello Mr. Waterbury I am going up town to buy a few coins for my collection
Hello Mr. Long, I am going that way also and will join you
I never gave it a thought Mr. Long. Where do you buy these coins?
Did you ever collect any Mr. Waterbury? Its the most interesting study in the world
you are just trying to see how many you can get are you Mr. Long?
Oh! no I am making a careful study of these coins
coin collecting cant be beat when its a question of education or recreation
I think I will buy just a few and study them up like you are doing, it must be a real pleasure
VERKLER

MR. WATERBURY'S NUMISMATIC EXPERIENCE.

This is the first of a series of drawings especially prepared for the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY by Mr. Verkler. The main object of this series will be to point out to the younger collector the many advantages and "dont's" of coin collecting.

THE FIRST YEAR BOOK
OF THE
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

The long-looked-for and much talked-about Year Book of the American Numismatic Association is at last a reality—and a mighty pleasing reality at that.

That the first Year Book should be issued immediately after the New York Convention was a fortunate thought, as it furnished the members with a prompt report of the Convention proceedings.

The business proceedings of the Convention are given in detail as recorded by the official reporter at the Convention, and the social side is briefly but very entertainingly told by that jovial C. N. S. secretary, Ben G. Green. Besides the Convention proceedings, it contains a history of the Association by Mr. Howland Wood. Beginning with the early history and founding of the A. N. A., Mr. Wood covers the twenty years history of the Association in a most interesting and entertaining manner. The addresses delivered at the Convention by Mr. Lyman H. Low, Mr. J. de Lagerberg, Mr. R. W. McLachlan and Mr. Wood, are given in detail. Then follows a list of the contents of the library and a list of the members arranged by states. There are five beautiful half-tone plates with portraits of the officers for 1910, and the portraits of all the ex-presidents.

As a sample of the printers' art ,the Year Book is par excellence. Its typographical appearance. the quality and style of paper used, arrangements, etc., cannot possibly be improved upon.

Many A. N. A. members have already expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the Year Book. The membership will, without doubt, now desire the book to be issued regularly, and will surely lend their moral and financial support for its future success as readily and freely as it surely deserves.

While the Association may feel elated over its success with its first Year Book, we should feel rather proud in being so fortunate in numbering among our membership Mr. B. H. Saxton, our worthy vice president, a gentleman who so cheerfully gave his time, thought and untiring effort for the success of the Year Book. The entire arrangements of the Year Book were on Mr. Saxton's shoulders and to his unselfish labors alone is due its great success. Mr. Saxton is certainly deserving of the hearty thanks and unbounded appreciation of the entire membership of the A. N. A.

The Year Book has been sent to each member of the A. N. A. in good standing. A limited number of copies are still available, and can be purchased at 25 cents each, in lots of four or more, or 30 cents per single copy. It is urged that all members order extra copies if only possible for them to do so, as all such receipts will go to lessen the expense of publication. The 25 cents charged for extra copies does not cover the cost. Address your orders for extra copies to Mr. B. H. Saxton, Davenport, Iowa.

"COPPERS MAKE FARMERS GLAD."

Newark, N. J., Sept. 12.—Charles M. Webb, a farmer of Mount Freedom, near here, is $800 richer as the result of a few hours' plowing which he did last week. While turning over the ground he came upon four remarkable old copper pennies. Two pieces were dated 1737. One of these has a horses' head and plow on one side; the second has a shield on one side and "Nova Caesarea" on the is a large copper cent of 1848, United States mintage. The fourth is an English copper piece of 1776. The four coins are appraised by dealers at an average of $200 a piece.

EDITORIAL NOTE—For the benefit of the younger collector, we wish to offer the above clipping as a fair sample of the general unreliability of press reports regarding coins. The two coins mentioned above can be purchased from any dealer for about 50 cents to 75 cents.

The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 79th monthly meeting of the above named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, August 5th, Mr. Virgil M.. Brand preseding in the absenee of the President and Viee President. The following fourteen members were present Messrs. Lewis, Green, Verkler, Carey, W. F. Dunham, V. M. Brand, Leon, Miehael, Vereouter, Jochem, Blumensehein, Holmes, Johnston and Baker.

The speeial order of the evening was the discussion of the matter of inviting the American Numismatic Association to hold its eonvention in Chicago in 1911. Those present gave expressions on the subjeet, and on motion the Seeretary was instrueted to send an invitation from the Society to the General Seeretary.

Mr. Johnston offered a resolution that it is the sense of the Soeiety that there should be adopted in this country a uniform grading of uncirculated coins into two classes those that are absolutely perfeet, and those short of that eondition.

Magazines received since last meeting were The Elder Magazine for June and July, Mehl's Monthly, Spink's Circular, Numismatische Correspondenz, Numismatischer Verkehr and Philatelic West for June. Auetion catalogs were received from Elder and Steigerwalt; and a priced catalog from Low.

Adjourned to meet September 2nd, 1910.

The 80th monthly meeting of the above named Soeiety was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, September 2nd, President Harry F. Williams presiding. The following 17 members were present: Messrs. Mayer, Green, Verkler, Carey, W. F. Dunham, V. M. Brand, Jaeger, Miehael, Vercouter, Joehem, Holmes, Baker, Williams, Donovan, Rau, Wilson and J. T. Kelly.

Communieations were received from Mr. F. G. Duffield and F. H. Noble & Co.

The eommittee on Medallic Production recommended that the Society have struck medals to commemorate the progress of aviation in 1910, that the medals be of bronze and silver, that the dies be engraved and the medals struek in the U. S. Mint, that a copy be presented to each member in good standing, that copies be sold to the public at 75 eents eaeh for bronze and $2.50 for silver, and that art students and others be asked to submit drawings for said medal, the person whose design is aceepted to be paid $20.00, second choiee $5.00 and third honorable mention. The recommendation in regard to inviting designs to be offered was adopted on motion of Mr. V. M. Brand.

A motion was carried to the effeet that it is the sense of this Society that they favor the retention of the Numismatist by Mr. Farran Zerbe as the official organ of the A. N. A., and that the passing of same to the eontrol of any dealer be opposed, and those present expecting to attend the New York convention were requested to use their influenee to this end.

Mr. Williams exhibited a number of South American gold pieces.

Magazines received since last meeting were: The Numismatist for July and Spink's Circular and the Philatelie West for August. Auction catalogs were received from Elder, Cahn (2) and the A. N. A., and catalog with fixed priees from Boudeau. Also a monograph by Howland Wood on the Canadian Blacksmith Coppers by the author.

Adjourned to meet October 7th, 1910.

BEN G. GREEN, Seeretary.

The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 81st monthly meeting of the above named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, October 7th, Vice President F. Elmo Simpson presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Verkler, W. F. Dunham, V. M. Brand, Simpson, Excell, Vercouter, Holmes, Baker, Wilson, Loer and Green.

A communication was read from General Secretary Duffield informing the Society that the invitation to hold the next convention of the American Numismatic Association in Chicago had been unanimously accepted, and that President Henderson had appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Ben G. Green, P. M. Wolsieffer and A. M. Tierney to confer with a committee of the American Philatelic Society with a view to arranging the conventions of the two societies on consecutive dates.

The committee on Medallic Production reported that they had made arrangements to have designs for a medal on Aviation submitted by Art Institute students.

Messrs. R. E. Davis and B. H. Saxton were elected to membership.

Matters pertaining to the 1911 convention were discussed at some length, and on motion President Williams was instructed to appoint a Finance Committee of three as soon as convenient to secure pledges for the entertainment of the convention. A preliminary committee of three, consisting of Messrs. V. M. Brand, Green and Carey, was appointed and asked to report at next meeting as to what committees should be created, their duties, etc.

Several interesting exhibits were made, and numismatic discussion indulged in. A copy of the first New York Numismatic Club Presidential medal was received from Mr. Frank C. Higgins, also his published paper on Chinese Coinage, and the Secretary was instructed to acknowledge same.

Magazines received since last meeting were: Numismatische Correspondenz, Philatelic West, Mehl's Numismatic Monthly and the Numismatist, all for September. Auction catalogs were received from Low, and a book from Mr. G. W. Tracy on Ancient Coins, Weights and Measures by Arbuthnot; also a catalog of the Medallic Exhibitions of the American Numismatic Society of 1910, a gift from Mr. F. J. Loer.

Mr. B. H. Saxton, of Davenport, Ia., was present as a visitor.

Adjourned to meet November 4th, 1910.

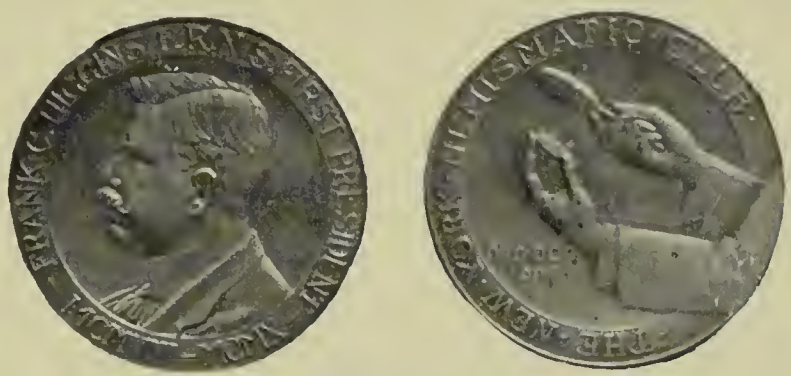
BEN G. GREEN, Secretary.

NO ADVANCE IN THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF THE MONTHLY.

The publisher has been urged to advance the subscription price to $1.00 by a number of our most valued subscribers whom he had the pleasure of meeting at the New York Convention. These gentlemen evidently have a fair knowledge of the time and expense necessary to publish a sixteen-page numismatic Journal for less than five cents per copy. But the Numismatic Monthly has prospered beyond our fondest hopes on its original subscription price of fifty cents per year, and we intend to maintain the same price for the time being. But the subscriber who realizes that we give him more, or, at least, full value for his money can easily show us his appreciation by using his influence in securing the subscriptions of his collector friends.

New York Numismatic Club

The 23rd regular monthly meeting of the New York Numismatic Club took place at Kean's Chop House on Thursday evening, September 1, with President Higgins in the chair. Owing to the presence in New York of a large gathering of early arrivals for the convention and the various numismatic sales the meeting was very largely attended by both local and out-of-town members and visitors. Among those specially welcomed were Dr. J. M .Henderson, President of the A. N. A.; B. Max Mehl, editor of Mehl's Numismatic Monthly, and Mr. Victor D. Brenner, this being the latter's first public appearance in the United States upon his return from his summer sojourn in Europe, in the course of which he represented the club as delegate to the numismatic congress in Brussels. The proximity of the convention made that function the principal topic, upon which one speaker followed another in rapid succession.



Medal tendered by the New York Numismatic Club to Frank C. Higgins.

Early in the evening President Higgins relinquished the chair in favor of Vice President Frey, and was himself agreeably surprised by the presentation by Mr. D. M. Webster, acting in behalf of the New York Numismatic Club, of a copy in bronze of the presidential medal subscribed to by the membership, bearing Mr. Higgins' portrait, with the seal of the club on the obverse, which latter, as is well known, was designed by Mr. Brenner.

The matter of honoring the memory of Dr. Heath, founder of the A. N. A., by issuing a medal, was discussed at length; several members expressing their views on the subject. It was finally settled to first to have the matter brought before the A. N. A. Convention.

DANIEL R. KENNEDY, Secretary.

THE DEALER'S RELATION TO THE A. N. A.

While we agree with Mr. Duffield that the sentiment of some of the members is against the dealer holding office, we have been unable to ascertain just why such sentiment should prevail. We strongly doubt if any dealer—"legitimate dealer" — would seek an office in the Association. But when a dealer is nominated for an office it is wrong that his services for the A. N. A. and his numismatic knowledge should be ignored, and that his defeat should be caused only by unfair discrimination.

We do not in the least advocate that the Association should especially elect dealers to office, but we do believe that a dealer should receive the same consideration as any other member of the A. N. A.

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1802 Good to V. G. Very rare. Next rarest dime. Record for good specimen $11.50 and for fine, $45.00 ..... 7.50
1820 Good. Scarce ..... .35
1821 Very fine. Sharp ..... .75
1825, 1827 Good. Each ..... .35
1846 V. Good Rare date ..... .75
Half Dime. 1800 Good. Plugged at top ..... .50
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EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY

B. MAX MEHL

NUMISMATIST

Fort Worth, Texas, U. S. A.

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Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, NOVEMBER, 1910 No. 11

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

The Coinage of Money

The Processes Employed by the Ancients in the Art of Coinage.

Prepared for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By REV. THOS. P KELLY.

Two processes were employed by the ancients in the coinage of their money, pouring the liquid metal into moulds, composed of two pieces of hard fire-proof stone, or baked earth, which was the first one employed; the second consisted in placing a piece of metal between two dies and striking the dies with a hammer. For this last process, the ancients did not have the coining press, such as we have today. They coined their money by striking with a hammer the dies between which they had placed the pieces of metal that was to be stamped. A process very slow and very imperfect, as very often it required several successive blows of the hammer to get the desired result, which today we get with one stroke of the coining press. We have a type of their method of coining money in a series of Roman deniers, bearing the name of Titus Carisius one of the triumvirs, who acted as commissioners of the mint, on these coins are depicted the implements employed by these workmen in coining their money. We have the die, which has the impression in intaglio of the design that is to be stamped in relief on the coin, the anvil, on which the dies are placed, the hammer and the tongs, which was used to place the blank coin or planchet between the two dies. A small piece of bronze money from the Latin colony of Paestum shows on one side a scale with two trays on which the metal about to be coined was weighed, and on the reverse side a workman who is about to strike with a hammer that he holds with both hands, the blank coin placed on the anvil. Another workman has the arm raised, as if about to give him the signal to strike. The pieces of blank metal for these coins were cast separately, and as near as possible to the shape the coins were to have been when finished. The fact that the blank coins or planchets were moulded is shown, not only by their round form, which was the one most generally used, especially in the first pieces of money, but also by the appearance of the edges of the coins, which often show very irregular, due to the melting and imperfect cutting. There are very few of these ancient pieces of money, which show a clear cut edge, or whose appearance would indicate that they had been cut with a punch from a sheet of metal as is done in our [illegible] coinage.

It was the custom, to prepare the blank pieces, giving them the exact weight before coining them, which was expressed by the word they made use of to designate the workmen employed in this part of the art. After this preparation the blank coin was heated to a red heat and placed between the dies after which the dies were struck with a hammer until the desired impression was obtained. The pinchers were of abso-

lute necessity, as otherwise it would be difficult to place the heated blank between the dies. It was a part of the operation that required expert workmen, as is shown by the fact that they were known by a special name.

This manner of coining, striking the dies with a hammer, was the method generally employed by the ancients, and as can be easily understood, it was impossible to get a clear impression with the first blow, the operation had to be repeated several times, and at each stroke it was necessary to re-heat the coin, as it is sometimes necessary even today in the coining of large medals, when the relief is very prominent. These various operations of their money coining can be plainly seen and followed in a particularly clear manner on the large golden coin of 20 staters, belonging to the time of King Eucratides of Bactriana. This piece is to be found in the Cabinet of Coins at Paris; it is a piece of extraordinary size, and required more re-heating and re-striking than any other known coin of antiquity, as can be seen, the coin was altered between the different attempts made at coining it. The legend that was first placed horizontally above on the reverse side was re-engraved so that it assumed the round form of the coin, giving it a more finished and pleasing appearance. Traces of the first legend are yet plainly visible, tho broken by the repeated hammering, besides, the coin was cracked, by the heavy blows it received. From this necessity of re-heating and re-striking it is easily seen what care and precision were required in replacing the coin so that the impression obtained from the first stroke would exactly coincide with

REV. THOS. P. KELLY

the dies. When we consider that the blank coin was not fixed and held in place, like in our modern method of coinage, we can well understand how delicate was the operation. One false stroke of hammer was sufficient to displace the coin. From this difficulty in replacing the coin in its true exact position, we have many coins on which the impression is doubled, either on account of the blank changing with the stroke of the hammer, or that it was improperly replaced after re-heating. It

Monetary Workshop under Louis XII of France.

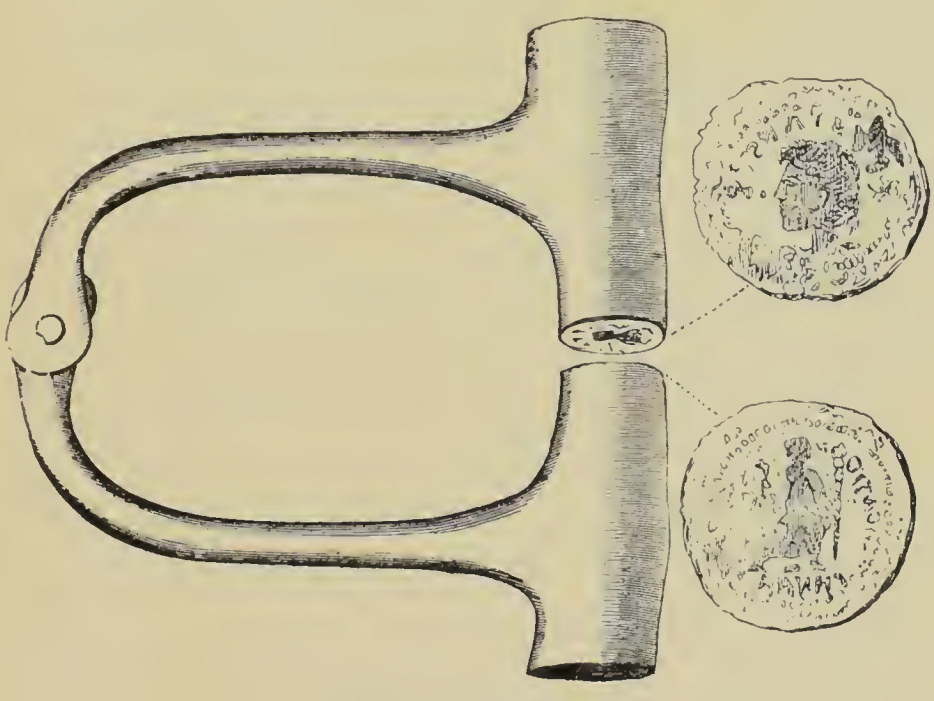
is indeed surprising that this accident did not happen more frequently with a process so crude and imperfect. It only goes to give us a very exalted impression of the precision and ability of their workmen.

Some of the European museums are today in possession of a few of the original dies employed by the Romans in the first and second century of our era. The most of them are composed of an engraved matrix in tempered steel, set in a truncated cone, or in a kind of iron or brass barrel, on one end of which was a projecting rim, which held the die, but it was much larger than the die, tho' it served to hold the die in place. There are also dies belonging to the Empire, which are entirely composed of bronze. The extraordinary multiplicity of these dies, which are known even of the same city, and for the same emission of coins among the Greeks, seems to prove that this people did not temper their dies, but made use of some soft metal for the purpose which was easily worn out in the process of coinage. Unfortunately we have none of the Greek dies today, but four Gaulish dies exist; they were used in the coinage of gold and silver money, and they are all in bronze or in soft iron. As the Gauls were followers and imitators of the Greeks, as far as their money was concerned, they but copied their method of coinage. Moreover, it is very easy to see by the Greek coins and on the

Roman pieces up to the time of Constantine, that their dies, whether of iron, bronze or even steel, were generally composed of a very poor quality of metal; for many inequalities and much unevenness exist in the field of these coins, without doubt, owing to imperfections in the dies. There is no doubt, but that these dies were, from the first days of money coinage, engraved something after the method used today by the engravers of precious stones. In the fifth century, and even a short time before that date, under the rule of the princes belonging to the Constantine family, the process changed. From this date, the pieces were coined as are our monies of today, by stamping the coins from the sheet of metal with a steel die, as is easily seen, from the density and hardness of the metal, whose purity has been in no way altered, but the striking has even hardened it. At the same time, from the nature and appearance of the work, it can be seen that the engraving was done by hand. The Cabinet of Medals at Paris has among its antiquities, one of these old coin dies dating from the very first days of money coinage. It is composed of two dies in steel, both dies have long iron handles that are hinged at their extremities. Moreover, it is only from the pieces themselves that we can deduce inferences in the process of money coinage in the primitive days of the art. Thus, for the pieces of money which show on one side a raised figure, and on the other side a small square cavity of more or less depth and often very irregular, we can suppose that this square represents a projecting point in the die, on which the blank coin was placed to keep it from sliding under the blows of the hammer. It must be borne in mind, that it was only the infancy of the art of coinage. The monetary piece had as yet, only one imprint in relief; its form was very irregular; in fact, it was only yet a piece of metal, of fixed weight, with an official stamp, guaranteeing its purity and weight. They were as yet only in the transitory state, between the simple bar of stamped metal, that we found at the beginning of the Lydian coinage and money in its perfection, as to its form. This nee-

COINER AT WORK.
From the capital of a pillar at St. Georges de Bocherville, Normandy.

essarily supposes two coin moulds between which the metalic blank that was to be coined was placed. To facilitate the work of engraving the matrix, did they make use of a punch, and afterwards perfect the work with the lathe? The multiplicity of coins in all the old issues seems to favor this opinion, otherwise it would be very difficult to explain the rapidity with which they coined them. Some of the numismatic writers say that they have experimentally found the precise process employed by the ancient. Mongez, writing about the striking of medals says "two modelers, at the same time, but separately, make an outline and finish it in wax, one of them, the obverse, the other the reverse. The inscription is done by stamping each letter with a punch, the two wax forms are joined together and then molded, then the metal was poured into the mould, the result was the medal." For the coinage of money it could be done in the same manner. It could also be done by placing the metal blank between the two dies, which are heated to a red heat, and then striking the dies with a hammer. The usage of movable dies for stamping the inscription on coins at least, among the Romans, is convincingly attested by the reversed displaced and transposed letters, together with other accidents of the same nature found on the coins, and moreover, showing that the pieces were very hastily made. Every piece of money that has a figure in relief on the obverse and a hollow square on the reverse supposes the combination not of the two matrixes joined together, but of a matrix and a punch and especially from the time when they began to stamp marks or figures in the hollow square. This manner of coining was still more in evidence when they began the making of incuse coins, that is, pieces showing on one side a type in relief as in ordinary coins, and reproducing the same type in creux on the other side. It was by this process that a considerable series of pieces were coined that showed a kind of political alliance and commercial agreement among the chief cities of greater Greece in the Sixth cen-



Ancient Coining Press.

tury before the Christian era. Very often they used the same die for both sides of the coin, one in relief and the other incuse. Sometimes to commemorate the particular alliance of two cities they employed different dies, for example, the piece of money from Taranto, on which it depicted Apollo. There were also some coins struck by accident, as often happens even today, if the coin is not removed it receives a second impression.

The bracteates were another species of coins, small thin films of gold or silver with the raised impression on one side. Some Grecian gold coins of this kind are to be found today in some of the European museums. The gold and silver coins struck at Populonia and various other cities of Eutruria, during the Fifth and Fourth century before the Christian era, had an impression only on one side and showed the trace of no mark on the other side. There were also many other peculiarities with their coins, which is often very difficult to explain, or give a reason why they were used. The large bronze pieces used as money in the days of King Lagides of Egypt, were a notable exception among the coins of antiquity in this that the edges of these coins were beveled. The nature and sharpness of the work clearly showed, that in place of preparing the blanks as was the custom by moulding, that the blanks were cut from a sheet of metal with a punch, other pieces of brass money much smaller struck in Cyria in the reign of the Seleucides. Some pieces of gold and silver money of Carthage and a certain number of Roman silver deniers of the time of the Republic are remarkable for having their edges cut like saw teeth. This is what Tacitus calls serrated money. Some expressions used by the Latin writer (Tacitus) seem at first sight to justify those who explain the reason why this serrated money was used, that they wished, by this peculiar form of coins, to show that nothing had been taken from their value by filing. For even, at this early day, they were given to filing and clipping coins. But for this series of serrated coins, the operation would have been of little value as no coins of this kind were made of silver or gold. All the Seleucidian coins were of bronze of small dimensions and their intrinsic value was not equal to their nominal value. Several other reasons have been given by numismatic writers to explain why the edges of these coins were serrated, but none of them were very clear or satisfactory. One thing is certain, there must have been good and forcible reasons, as otherwise, they would not have taken so much trouble in coining these pieces, especially when we consider that the pieces themselves were of such small value. There was yet another point of peculiarity about these coins, most of them had on both sides in the center of the coin, a small circular cavity, made by a projecting point placed in the mould. This point, at the blow of the hammer penetrated deeply enough in the blank to keep it from moving or slipping under the repeated blows. The same technical peculiarity was observed on the brass coins of Lagides.

These various facts taken all together go to show that at Alexandria and as a general thing in all the workshops of Egypt, every means was taken to make the art of money coinage as perfect as possible, and today, we cannot but admire the success that crowned their efforts. The making of plated money by the ancients shows on the part of the makers an astonishing practical skill, when we consider the imperfect mechanical resources that they had at their disposal. The plated money consisted in this, that the metalic piece, about to be stamped whether it was of copper, iron or tin, was covered all over with a very thin sheet of silver, very rarely of gold.

Der Müntzmeiſter.

In meiner Müntz ſchlag ich aericht/
Gute Müntz an fern vnd gewicht/
Gülden/Cron/Taler vnd Batzen/
Mit gutem preg / künſtlich zu ſchatzen/
Halb Batzen/Creutzer vnd Weiſſpfenniz/
Vnd gut alt Thurnis / aller mennig
Zu gut/in recht guter Landeweruna/
Dardurch niemand geſchicht gferung.

The following is the transalation of the rhymes attached to the above cut:

"Good coins in my mint I strike
In weight and metal good alike.
Batzen, dollars, gulden, crowns
I can strike for any towns,
Half-batzen, kreutzers, counters small,
Old Tournois groats—I make them all,
So good and right that through the land
There's no one suffers at my hand."

The blank pieces and the covering were stamped at the same time. This plated money was fraudulent, nothing more than our counterfeit money, but the pieces were so numerous and were so conspicuous at certain times when the government minted their money that it is almost impossible to attribute them to private counterfeiters. The work was very carefully done, and their general appearance denoted able and expert workmanship. To be so successfully coined, especially when the blank was of copper or iron, so great a care was necessary in their coining it must be

considered almost impossible that they could have been clandestinely coined, and besides, it required a stock of tools that could not be found outside a state or governmental mint. However, it has been historically proven, that certain needy and not over-scrupulous governments particularly that of Rome under the Republic, placed in circulation among the people quantities of plated and fiduciary money that they mixed with good money, and thus, placed the counterfeit money in circulation. It is almost unnecessary to remark that every time recourse was had to this spurious and iniquitous measure, great disorders and embarrassment followed for the state, and unrest and troubles for the people.

In our own time, with perfected machinery of every description, such as was unknown to the ancients, we would be deterred by the difficulties to be encountered in the coining of similar pieces of money. We can hardly understand how they managed to solidly fix the thin leaves of gold or silver to both sides of the blank coin in such a way as to conceal the joint and to keep it from separating from the blank under the repeated blows of the hammer, or how such thin sheets were not torn to pieces under the blows. How they overcame all these difficulties and succeeded in coining such a vast number of the pieces is difficult to understand, but almost incredible when we consider the shape and make of these serrated pieces of money.

There was also another species of money coined and used by the ancients, which the called "Scypha," a word derived from a Greek root meaning cup or goblet; from the fact that one side of the coin had a concavity and the other side a corresponding convexity. The metallic blank was evidently pressed between two dies, one of which had a hollow surface on which was engraved the type, the other die a convex surface. This form of money, among the ancients was very rare, and to be found only among the uncivilized tribes, who lived along the valley of the Danube. The pieces of gold coined by the Boiens of Bohemia, and the people of Vindelicie had this Scypha form to such an extent that among the Germans they were called small rainbow pieces. Scypha money coined of very thin pieces was adopted in the middle ages, beginning with the Eleventh century, as the nominal type of gold and silver pieces under the Byzantian emperors. It was then that they first made use of the name Scypha to designate them.

Pattern Case Dismissed by the Government

Title Now Clear to All Pattern Coins Dated Prior to 1888.

Just as we were going to press with this issue of the Monthly, we received word from Captain Haseltine to the effect that the Government has dismissed the suit for the possession of a small lot of pattern coin seized some time ago. The Government's dismissal of the suit will be joyfully received by all collectors of Americana, as this makes a clear title to all pattern coins issued prior to 1888.

A complete history of this now famous case appeared in the October issue of the Numismatic Monthly.

Ancient Mint Masters

[Editorial Note: This interesting historical sketch of Ancient Mint Masters is published purposely in conjunction with Rev. Kelly's article on the process employed by the Ancients in the art of coinage. The two articles in one issue of the Numismatic Monthly form an interesting and valuable addition to numismatic literature.]

From an early period, which Mommsen dates between 104 and 89 B. C., the coinage of the Roman Republic was entrusted to three officers, who bore the title III VIR A. A. A. F. F. Triumviri Auro Argento Aere Flando Feriundo. These magistrates (Mint Masters) were invested with the supreme authority in all things that related to the fabrication of money, and superintended the work of the Monetarii (Mint Engravers), who formed, with their wives and their children, a large body exclusively employed as workmen, and whose position in society differed little from that of slaves. The Tresviri Monetales had the privilege, in early times, of recording by means of legends and types, facts connected with their family history. Julius Caesar added one more person to this monetary triumvirate, who thus became IIII VIR (Quatuorviri), but Augustus again reduced the number to three, after a period of fourteen years (B. C. 47-21), during which no coins signed by regular monetary magistrates were issued. After B. C. 15, the names of the triumvirs no longer appeared on the gold and silver currency, but maintained themselves for about ten years on the bronze coinage, which was instituted in this year. The names of engravers are not recorded, with very few exceptions. Under Aurelian, the senatorial right of issuing money was suppressed, and presumably at the same time the board of triumvirs ceased to exist, a change which appears to be connected with the revolt of the moneyers in 274 A. D. The coinage of the gold and silver, under the Emperors, was entrusted to officials of the imperial treasury, some private slaves, or freedmen, as Junius Thallus, of Caligula's household, who was superpositus auri monetae nummulariorum under Claudius. Trajan placed the general management of the coinage in the hands of a Procurator monetae Augusti, under whose orders were Dispensatores. The workmen employed at the mint were divided into three classes: the signatores, who engraved the coins; the suppostores, who were charged with the placing of the piece of metal between the dies, and the melleatores, who struck the dies with the hammer.

Little is known of the social position of the moneyers after the fall of the Eastern Empire. A distinction must, however, be drawn between the moneyers of the Anglo-Saxons, Merocingians, and the MONNAYEURS, MUNTZMEISTER, MINT-MASTERS of the same and subsequent periods in various European countries. The moneyers enjoyed many of the privileges of the familia monetalis of the Empire. In England and France, these officers of the mint were persons of rank, often of considerable wealth and importance, or selected for their integrity, but not usually possessed of technical knowledge. Some, however, may have been the engravers of the coins, as well as the issues, thus the clever goldsmith Abbo of Limoges, who was moneyer at that locality.

"In the earliest Saxon times," says Mr. W. J. Andrews, "the moneyer was perhaps an officer of the Crown attendant on the King's person, and the designer of his own dies; but, as the demand for coin increased, and the mints became gradually extended throughout the country, the respective offices of designer of the coinage and of the local moneyer became separate of necessity." In the time of Edward the Con-

fessor there were three or four hundred of them coining at one time or another in the seventy mints or so of the reign." From the time of Aethelred II., when fresh types were issued throughout England, from time to time, their designs and types emanated from one central place, first at Winchester, and probably soon after the conquest, at London. On very few of the coins the name of the moneyer is followed by ME FECIT, which might lead one to suppose that in such cases he was also the engraver.

We are very much in the dark concerning the status of the moneyers and engravers in later mediaeval times. Ruding supplies us with such information in connection with the respective attributions of the Wardens and masters of the Mint and the Cuneators or engravers, in this country (England). Their offices were quite distinct. The two first were responsible for the coinage, under the direct supervision of the King or Government; the Cuneator in chief was usually the King's goldsmith; thus Otto (or Otho) Aurifaber was the engraver of William I's coins, and his successors held the same office under subsequent reigns as late as Edward I.

In France, Germany, Spain, and the other countries, the workmen employed at the mints formed a corporation, under the jurisdiction of the mint-masters, and enjoyed many privileges, being exempt from all kinds of taxes and from serving in time of war.

In Germany the moneyers formed powerful corporations, the Hausgenossen, with the sole right of striking money and exchange. The Muntzmeister were responsible for the coinage under their direct control. At a later period, we find in every well-constituted Mint a Mint-Warden, the Prince's officer entrusted with the issue of the coinage, and a Mint-Master, who undertook to strike the coins, often at his own risk and peril, on certain conditions and subject to a royalty. In some mints, the Mint-master was Die-sinker himself, usually a goldsmith, and acted also as engraver of the dies.

In the Kingdom of France, the officials of every mint consisted in the Mint-Master (Maitre Particulier), two Warden (Gardes), a Counter-Warden (Contre-garde), an Assayer (Essayeur), and an Engraver (Tailleur des fers). The Monnayeurs were the workmen occupied wth the striking of the coins. The Mint-masters-general (Generaux maitres), who belonged to the Chambre des Comptes, had the superintendence over the various mints.

The organization of mints in most European countries, England included, did not very much differ from that in France. At Vienna, the staff consisted of the Munzmeister of Master, Anwalt or Warden, both of which were appointed by the Archdukes, the Giesser, Founders, Versucher, Assayers, Zainmeister, Workmen engaged in rolling the metal: Beschaunmeister, foremen; Schrotmeister, cutters; Setzmeister, coiners; Ysengraber, engravers (who were generally goldsmiths by trade), and Ysenhutter, keepers of the dies.

At the smaller mints, the number of officials was very much reduced, and in some of them, even up to our present time, the Mint-master combined the offices of Issuer and Engraver of the coins.

Spink's Numismatic Circular.

ACKNOWLEDGED WITH THANKS.

Clippings from Messrs. John M. Oliver, G. J. Schwartz, J. A. Foster, J. de Lagerberg, E. C. Stevens.

We certainly appreciate the kindness in sending us clippings pertaining to coins, as a great many items of interes to coin colectors appear in the various publications that seldom reach the numismatic fraternity.

The Chicago Numismatic Society

The 82nd monthly meeting of the above named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temple, Friday evening, Nov. 4th, President Harry F. Williams presiding. The following 18 members were present: Messrs. Carey, W. F. Dunham, V. M. Brand, Simpson, Leon, Tuckerman, Vercouter, Holmes, Baker, Sorensen, Williams, Loer, Krausz, Wilson, Mayer, Kelley, Green and Verkler. Lieut. Fitzgerald was present as a visitor.

A communication was read from Dr. Eugene Merzbacher, Munich, Germany.

The committee appointed to make a preliminary report on organization for 1911 American Numismatic Association Convention recommended that there should be five general committees appointed to look after the work. The Finance Committee of five to secure funds for the expenses of the convention was appointed as follows: Messrs. W. F. Dunham, Verkler, V. M. Brand, Tracey and Holmes. A committee of three on Exhibitions to secure a suitable place and the necessary cases and to superintend the installation and care for all exhibits and to invite members to make displays, was appointed as follows: Messrs. M. P. Carey, Ben G. Green and F. M. Tuckerman. The committee on Entertainment, Program and Hotel as well as that on Publicity was deferred until a later date. On motion the committee on Medallic Production will comprise the committee on Official Badge and Medals. It was moved and carried that a sub committee on Printing be selected by the chairmen of the varions general committees. On motion the appointment of a Convention Executive Committee was authorized and the appointment deferred to May meeting. The Medallic Committee announced that fourteen students of the Art Institnte had submitted drawings and models for the proposed medal commemorating the progress of aviation in 1910. The designs were exhibited, eleven of the number being modeled in clay or plaster. On motion the President appointed Messrs. Krausz, Simpson and Brand as a committee on award for the prizes offered for first, second and third selection. Mr. Brand announced that he would donate the further cash prizes of $10.00 each to first and second choice and $5.00 to the third. His offer was accepted by the Presidents with thanks.

Messrs. M. H. Jackson, C. H. Lamson, W. J. Blacklock, H. Lawton, Rudolph G. Mueller, C. Staub and Fred Michael were elected to membership.

Mr. Baker exhibited his collection of fractional currency consisting of 226 varieties. Mr. Krausz showed first bronzes of Didius Julianua Diademianus and Macrinus; second bronzes of Vitellins and Trajan; third bronzes of Aelins and Domitan; denarius of Gordianus Africanus II; and four restrikes by Gallianus of Vespasian, Nerva, Trajan and Commodus, all in superb condition.

Magazines received since last meeting were: Numismatischer Verkehr, Spink's Circular, Philatelic West and Mehl's Monthly, all for October. Auction catalogs from Elder, Green, Hamburger, Hess, Hirsch (3), Kube, Low and St. Louis Stamp and Coin Co.; catalogs with fixed prices from Boudeau and Majer; priced catalog from Low; and the Year Book of the American Numismatic Association.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 2nd, 1910.

COMMUNICATIONS

[Communications and contributions of articles on any numismatic topic are solicited and always thankfully received, but the publication of same cannot be held to be an endorsement by the editor of the views expressed.]

Santa Ana, Cal., October 28, 1910.

Mr. B. Max Mehl.

Dear Sir: When I read in your valuable Monthly that the cost of membership in the American Numismatic Association was increased to three times what it used to be, I felt that the knell of said Association had been sounded. Being a District Secretary for a large extent of territory I have had many communications with persons who were interested in coins, and whatever may be the feelings of the rich members in the East, **I do know** that great numbers of collectors are not well enough off to pay such an amount as is now called for. When asking collectors to join us, as a rule the first question I have been mobarded with, has been, "What is the cost?" and the reply in nine cases out of ten would be, "I can spend that money to better advantage on coins."

I **know** whereof I speak and personally feel the same way to such an extent that I expect that the Association will have to find some one to fill my thankless and troublesome position.

The view expressed by one of the wealthy gentlemen at the convention in regard to young people joining us certainly was not the view of the founder of the Association. I have met and corresponded with many young coin collectors and cannot recall a single one who would be willing to join under present conditions. If you do not get the young tree, where will you get the old one? If money is required; and when is money not required? let some of the rich members who speaks so lightly of it put their hands in their pockets (which I have no doubt their fathers filled, or they would know the value of a dollar) and help out the Association they love so much(?).

Another matter interested me greatly, that is the publication of the Numismatist. My sentiments were fully expressed by the resolution of The Chicago Numismatic Society. Mr. Zerbe is the one man to publish that monthly. Who stepped forward and really saved the Association at the time of our lamented founder's death. No man but Mr. Zerbe could, or would, have done as well as he did and the member who objects to the Numismatist as now published must be a chronic dyspeptic or have a liver he would like to exchange— a disgruntled man indeed.

It is an old saying, "If you would know the value of a dollar go and try to borrow one." Prices of the necessities of life being exceedingly high the great majority of collectors cannot afford to spend $3.00 and get so little for it.

Now, Mr. Publisher, you have my ideas of the action of the convention and I know they are the ideas of very many Western collectors.

Respectfully,

F. A. HASSLER, M. D., PH. D.,
District Secretary for the Pacific States.

A NEW NUMISMATIC ENTERPRISE.

At last we seem to be within measurable distance of, by numerous collectors long awaited, American "Conder." The National Medal Company, which has just commenced business in New York, Room 64, 156 Broadway, beginning with the year the issue of a National Collector's Token Series, which will be different from anything so far produced in this country, in that it will

derive its inspiration less from prosaic trade sources than from the same quality of historical and topical allusions, such as made the splendid English token series of the Eighteenth century, one of the most splendid Numismatic monuments of that vivacious age. The manager will be Mr. Julius Wielar, a gentleman, better known to New Yorkers than to the fraternity at large, but one who is thoroughly alive to the possibilities of up-to-date Numismatic publication, and who will be assisted in the selection of suitable designs by prominent members of the New York Numismatic Club. The National Medal Company will give due notice of its various forthcoming publications on the advertising pages of the Numismatic Press. Mr. Wielar, while he intends to be as enterprising as the most modern business methods warrant in securing the largest possible interest in the work of The National Medal Company, the strict ethical traditions of Numismatic science will be respected to the limit and that no disagreeable surprises will be sprung upon collectors who acquire the work of The National Medal Company as valuable additions to their treasures.

Nov. 4, 1910. H. F., New York.

NOTED AUTHORITY ON CONFEDERATE CURRENCY PASSES AWAY.

Mr. B. Max Mehl,

Dear Sir:—Our old friend, Mr. Wm. P. Titcomb, of Washington, D. C., died on October 8th, his funeral took place on the 12th. He was 71 years of age, an old war veteran and one of the best authorities on Confederate Treasury notes in the country. He was in the Bureau of Fisheries for many years, but his health has not been good for the past year and he only ceased to take an interest in collecting on account of poor health.

Respectfully,

LUTHER B. TUTHILL.

THE "NUMISMATIST" PROBLEM SOLVED.

While in Philadelphia for a few days during October for the purpose of attending the Lambert sale, the editor of the Monthly was informed —"unofficially"—that arrangements have been completed whereby the "Numismatist" will become the property of the American Numismatic Association on January 1st, 1910. This so much desired condition was brought about through the generosity—so it was "rumored to us—of our first vice president, Mr. W. W. C. Wilson, who purchased the "Numismatist" from Mr. Zerbe and presented it to the A. N. A.

Mr. Howland Wood and Mr. A. R. Frey, we understand, will have charge of the publication. With these two able gentlemen at the head and with others of the Association lending support, we have every reason to feel sure of a most successful Official Bulletin for the A. N. A.

THE COPPER CENT.

The copper cent has made its appearance from the mint every year from 1793, the first year of its issue, up to the present time, excepting only in the year 1815. The large cents were issued from 1793 to 1857. The small cents first appeared in 1856 and are still being coined. All cents were coined only in the parent or Philadelphia mint up to 1908 when the mint at San Francisco began to issue them.

The rarest dates of the cents are, 1793, 1799, 1804, 1809 and the flying eagle cent of 1856. There are numerous scarce dates, and all early dates when in extremely fine or uncirculated condition command high prices.

The New York Numismatic Club

The twenty-third regular monthly meeting of the New York Numismatic Club assembled on the evening of Wednesday, October 12th, at Keen's Chop House, with President Higgins in the chair, and a large attendance of the membership, in addition to which the Club welcomed the return to New York of Howland Wood of Boston, and W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal, this being their first appearance since the Convention.

Ex-President Farran Zerbe of the A. N. A., attended the meeting as the guest of the President of the Club.

In the absence of Mr. E. H. Adams, the President proposed that the list of candidates for membership in the possession of Mr. Adams, comprising some eleven names, should, in the absence of objections, be considered elected, as they had been proposed at the September meeting of the Club . This was carried and the following gentlemen declared elected members of the Club:

Dr. B. P. Wright, 112 Mechanic St., Watertown, N. Y.; H. O. Granberg, 1004 Michigan St., Oshkosh, Wis.; J. Coolidge Hills, 19 Atwood St., Hartford, Conn.; J. Everett Alden, Box 193, Torrington, Conn.; John W. Aitken, Aitken Block, Carbondale, Pa.; A. A. Hawkes, 7 Charles St., Wakefield, Mass.; G. L. Tilden, 377 Main St., Worcester, Mass.; J. Guttag, 52 Wall St., New York City; Fred Michael, 258 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.; J. A. Walker, 541 S. 49th St., Philadelphia, Pa.; H. A. Fowler, 100 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

On motion of Mr. Elliott Smith, a resolution to substitute the urn and ball method of election for the system now in vogue was laid on the table for consideration and voting at the next meeting of the Club.

On motion of Mr. A. R. Frey, of the Club Medal Committee, the Club voted the adoption of a metallic button, the design of which had been submitted by the Whitehead & Hoag Co. of Newark, N. J., and ordered the die to be made and samples with the prices of individual buttons submitted to the next meeting of the Club.

President Higgins, referring to the Club's financial condition said it was excellent, although a large amount of expense had been incurred in entertaining the recent convention of the A. N. A. The funds provided for that occasion, however, had not been entirely expended because instead of having to entertain 150 visitors, as had been expected, there were only about 75 in attendonce. This had left a balance which was now at the Club's disposal.

A motion was seconded and carried that a nominating committee of three be appointed to make nominations of officers for the ensuing year.

A motion was made by Mr. Frey that the term of the present president be extended over 1910 and that the new president take his seat on the first of January, 1911. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Higgins suggested that the Club should assist the foundation of a Junior Numisatic Club, to be composed of boys and young men from the high schools, business colleges and the Y. M. C. A., the Young Men's Hebrew Associations, and similar organizations. This would act as a feeder of continuous and intense numismatic interest for all future time.

Many interesting exhibits of rare coins were made by Mr. Frey and other members.

DANIEL R. KENNEDY,
Secretary.

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South African Republic. One penny. Bust of Kruger. Uncirculated, light olive. Very scarce . ..... .35

Ceylon, 5 cents. Bust of Victoria. Unc. red. Scarce . ..... .25

England, 1797. The "Cartwheel" two-pence (4c). A quarter of an inch thick. One of the largest copper coins issued by England. Fine and scarce. Very interesting. (Add 5c extra for postage) . ..... .75

One penny piece as last type, 1797. A nice mate to last lot..... .25

England. One third of a farthing. Bust of King Edw. The smallest bronze coin issued by England . ..... .10

The large and heavy Portuguese 40 reis piece. Very scarce . ..... .25

1776 Siberia. Katherine II. 5 Kopeks. Fine and scarce . ..... .35

Russia. The very large 5 Kopek piece, dated about 1770. Larger than the English "Cartwheel . ..... .75

Barbadoes Penny, 1792. Crowned Negro. Rev. King Neptune driving. Fine, but corroded. Scarce and interesting . ..... .50

London. Mail Coach half penny. J. Palmers. Very good and rare. Sold at auction at over $1.00..... .40

FOREIGN SILVER. VERY CHEAP.

All Half-dollar Size.

Siam. Bust of ruler. Rev. temple. Scarce . ..... .75

Siam. Elephant. Rev. temple. Very good. Scarce . ..... .75

Indian. View of temple. Rev. Native characters. Fine . ..... .50

Hawaii 1883. ½ Dala. Bust of King Kalakana. Scarce . ..... .60

South African Repub. 2 shil. Bust of Kruger. Scarce . ..... .60

Mexico. ½ peso. Bust of Maximillian. Very scarce. The half peso is far scarcer than the peso . ..... .75

Germany. 1860. Vereinsthaler. Frankfurt. Cheap at..... .75

Prussia. Coronation thaler. 1861. Conjoined head of the Emperor and empress. Good ..... .75

1804 Dollar. Bank of England. "A Genuine 1804 dollar." Very good and interesting 2.75

BEAUTIFUL U. S. SILVER.

Dollar. 1798. Bust type. Very light scratch or bust otherwise extremely fine. Cameo proof surface. Sharp and well centered. Very rare so beautiful 6.50

Dollar. 1799. 6 [illegible] facing. About uncirculated and almost equal to a proof. In fact it certainly proof. Rare so choice 6.00

Dollar. 1801. Same condition as last. Very bold. Very rare so perfect. Auction record about $15.00..... ..... 7.00

Dollar. 1800. Condition as last. Rare so choice 6.00

Half dollar. 1836. Milled edge. About uncirculated with brilliant mint bloom. Very rare 5.00

RARE GOLD COINS CHEAP.

Carolina $5.00. A. Bechtler. Good. Rare 24.00

California. $5.00. Baldwin & Co. Very good to fine. Few slight scratches. Extremely rare. Record about $150.00. Price 115.00

1798. $5.00 U. S. Extremely fine, mint bloom. Very rare 20.00

Another, only very good. 15.00

1802 over 01. $5.00 Uncirculated, with mint bloom. Rare 15.00

1806 $5.00. Round top 6. Fine and very scarce 11.00

1797 $10.00. Large eagle. Uncirculated with proof surface. Very rare and in great demand 35.00

$3.00 Gold. 1887 and 1888. Fine and extra fine, each 5.50

Lewis & Clark gold dollar. 1904. The rare date 3.00

FINE SET OF UNITED STATES CENTS.

1794 Hays 24. Good to V. G. Rare ...$2.90

1795 Plain edge. Very good. Sharp. Scarce 1.50

1797 The comet variety. Scarce. Very good. Dark 1.50

1797 Indented border. Good..... .90

1798 Very good. Large date ..... .85

1800 Perfect date. Very good. Scarce date 1.00

1802, 1803. About fine. Sharp. Good color. Each . ..... .50

1805 Perfect I. Very good, near fine. Very scarce 1.00

1807 over 06. On one side trifle weak, otherwise nearly fine. Sharp date..... .75

1807 Perfect date. Almost fine. Scratch on reverse. Rare . ..... .75

1808 13 stars. Very good. Scarce..... .75

1811 Perfect date. Good. Rare date... 1.25

1813 About fine, nick on rev. Dark Scarce date . ..... .50

1817 13 stars. Broad open date. Uncirculated, proof surface with beautiful dark olive color. A gem. Very scarce 3.00

1818 Broken die connecting stars. Uncirculated. Red . ..... .50

1818 Perfect die. About uncirculated. Light scratches on rev. Rare..... .75

1819 over 1818. Large date. Weakly struck. Fine, partly red. Scarce... .60

1820 Large date, about fine..... .50

1821 Several small scratches, but fine and sharp. Rare date and very scarce in this condition. Record for a fine one, $1.00 . ..... 1.50

1822 Compact date. About fine. Scarce. .50

1823 Very fine. A light nick in field of obverse, otherwise a beautiful cent. Record for a fine specimen, $17.00..... 5.50

1826 Compact date. Fine and scarce... .50

These cents are all bargains at the prices quoted. First come first served. Satisfaction guaranteed.

B. MAX MEHL, Box 976, Fort Worth, Texas

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 12
Whole Number 36

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Monthly Journal Published in the Interest of Coins and Coin Collectors

December, 1910

Subscription, 50c per year; Single Copies 10c.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY

B. Max Mehl

NUMISMATIST

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, U. S. A.

Auction Sale

of a Fine Collection of Rare

United States and Colonial Coins and Medals

Coins of West India

Coins and Medals of South America, Asia Africa and Australia

Catalogue with Three Plates Free

J. SCHULMAN

Keizersgaacht 448 Amsterdam, Holland

To Begin in the January Number of the Numismatic Monthly

NUMISMATIC BY-PATHS

By MR. B. H. SAXTON

First Vice President Elect of the American Numismatic Association and Chairman of the Year Book Committee, through whose able efforts the A. N. A. can boast of such a magnificent Year Book.

The "Numismatic By-Paths" will consist of a series of highly interesting articles, profusely illustrated. The following are some Numismatic subjects it will cover:

The Beginnings of Heraldry,
The Winged Victory of Samothrace,
The Charm of Mythology,
Roman Architecture,
The Distinction of the Common Coin,
A Way to Enhance the Value of a Collection.

This is only ONE of the features of the 1910 Monthly.
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Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

Vol. III. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1910 No. 12

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

With The Editor

At this time of the year one enjoys to review the efforts and success of the year just ending, and to analyze the causes of either success or failure.

With this number terminates the third and most successful year of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY, and, to my delight, I find I am to start the fourth year with the largest circulation in the history of the Monthly.

At the outset I endeavored and hoped to issue a creditable Numismatic Journal, but I hardly hoped that the Monthly would reach the prestige and appreciation which it is now enjoying in the Numismatic world, in so short a time. I fully realize that the great success of the Monthly is due, mainly, to the generous support accorded it by its subscribers, and it is with much pleasure and feeling of exceptional gratitude I desire to express my appreciation and thanks to its subscribers for their very generous support.

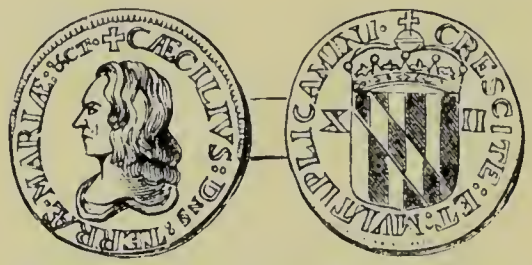
I shall not take up any space here for announcement for next year. But I am going to make it a good magazine; what I already have in hand and in view will make the fourth volume of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY a worthy addition to the Numismatic literature of real worth.

With sincere good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—and many of them,

Yours very truly,

B. Max Mehl.

Early Currency of Maryland



THE LORD BALTIMORE SHILLING.
Coin of Maryland Most Popular Among Collectors of Today.

[A paper read before the Numismatic Society of Philadelphia in 1867, and undoubtedly of much interest to the collector of today.—Ed.]

To Maryland, settled by British subjects, was brought the currency of their home. Silver and gold doubtless existed among them, although the amount could be but small, while the necessity of constant remittances to the mother country for merchandise ever in demand (and hence the impossibility of retaining a currency of specie in a state of colonial dependance) soon caused a change in the actual value of the coin; the operation of the laws of supply and demand being invariable. The inconveniences caused by the loss of their circulating medium the inhabitants sought to remedy by various expedients, and among them appear wampum and its congeners, tobacco, coinage, tobacco notes, and finally, bills of credit. Upon the nature, varieties and uses of wampum, it is not the present intention to dilate: the subject deserves a strict historical collation, which it is hoped may by us, at some future time, be performed. We therefore pass at once to the great staple, **tobacco.**

A law of Maryland, passed in 1639, five years after the first settlements therein, makes tobacco a legal tender, at the rate of five shillings sterling for every thirty pounds of the staple, being at the rate of twopence per pound. To this result Virginia had led the way; in that province in 1618, tobacco had been declared a legal tender at three shillings per pound, soon, however, falling to a more moderate value. This was the standard at which, in 1620, wives were sold to the Virginia planters, at prices ranging from one hundred to one hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco at threepence per pound. In 1645, the General Council of the Province resolved to issue a copper coinage for circulation of the value of 2d., 3d., 6d. and 9d., on which were to be impressed two rings, one to contain the date, and the other a suitable motto. These pieces, if they were ever actually coined, have not reached the present time.*

In 1661, the Assembly of Maryland, "by reason of the great hindrance to the Colony in trade for want of money," erected a mint, and provided for the coinage of silver money, of sterling alloy, at the rate of ninepence sterling for every shilling currency, and the smaller pieces in th esame proportion. This action, it will be observed, makes a difference of twenty-five per cent. between the sterling and the currency value of the shilling, and raises the dollar to five shillings sevenpence halfpenny.

Folkes† speaks of these coins as being shillings, half shillings, and groats; of handsome execution, but lacking above twopence in the shilling of the sterling value. In order to send these coins into circulation, it was enacted, in the following year, that every householder in the province should be obliged to take of them ten shillings per poll for every inhabitant within his dwelling.

* Streeter's paper on the Maryland Currency. Dickeson gives these pieces to Virginia.
† Edition, 1763, p. 98.

and to make payment therefor in tobacco, at twopence per pound. This law was confirmed and continued in 1676, but over the fate and termination of this coinage a mystery seems to hang; ten years later, when, by statute, the value of the coin then current in the Colony, was regulated, no mention whatever is made of these coins. New England shillings and sixpences were rated at their nominal value, though they were really worth eightpence and fourpence. French crowns, pieces of eight and rix dollars were to pass for six shillings; ducatoons at seven shillings and sixpence; Spanish milled dollars previously rated at four shillings and sixpence, then at five shillnigs seven and a halfpence, were now to pass current for six shillings. All other foreign silver and gold coins were to be estimated at threepence in the shilling over their value.

An act passed in 1704, which regulated the interest to be permitted on loans, prescribes an interest of six per cent. on money contracts, but allows eight per cent. on those wherein tobacco should enter. In the same year hemp and flax were declared to be a legal tender for the payment of one-fourth of any debt: the former being estimated at six-pence, and the latter at four pence per pound.

For forging or clipping the coin made current in the Province, the Act of 1707 inflicts the following punishments: on a firs conviction, whipping, cropping of the ears and pillorying; on the second offense, branding and banishment. Such remained the law of the land until 1729, when, in consequence of silver being cut into small pieces, halves, quarters, eighths and sixteenths, to supply the then greatly felt want of small change, and being therefore received only by weight, the sanitary provisions of this act were no longer needful for the security of the Province, and it was therefore repealed.

The proclamation issued in the sixth year of Queen Anne, for establishing the rates of foreign coins in the American plantations, met in its workings with some difficulties, to obviate which, Parliament, in 1707, enacted it into a law, and the Assembly of Maryland in the following year did the same.

The following table shows the rates thereby established:

Name	Weight		Intrinsic Value		Current Value		
	dwt.	gr.	s.	d.	s.	d.	qr.
Sevill piece of eight, old plate	17	12	4	6	6	0	0
Sevill piece of eight, new plate	14	0	3	7¼	4	6	2⅔
Mexico piece of eight	17	12	4	6	6	0	0
Pillar piece of eight	17	12	4	6¾	6	0	0
Peru piece of eight, old plate	17	12	4	5¾	5	10	2⅔
Cross Dollars	18	4	4	4¾	5	10	2⅔
Ducatoon of Flanders	20	21	5	6	7	4	0
Piew of France, or silver Lewis	17	12	4	6	6	0	0
3 gilders pieces of Holland	20	7	5	2¼	6	11	3⅔
Crusadoes of Portugal	11	4	2	10¼	3	9	2⅓
Old Rix Dollar of the Empire	18	10	4	6	6	0	0

The Act speaks of Dog Dollars as being the money which was most plentiful in the Province, and with which the inhabitants were best acquainted: upon them the value of four shillings and sixpence was placed. In the laws of Pennsylvania, these coins are frequently mentioned as the Lion or Dog Dollars, and are rated in 1723 at five shillings.

In 1713, the Maryland Assembly regulated the manner in which tobacco, as a legal tender, was to be offered and received in payment of debts, but the Act neglects to mention the rate at which it is to be valued. This, however, we find from a subsequent Act of the same session, was about one penny per pound, or fifty shillings currency, equal to six hundred pounds of tobacco: twenty pounds sterling money were valued at five thousand pounds of the

staple. At this rate it permanently remained, being in 1732, made a legal tender at that rate.

To encourage still more the importation of gold and silver, of which the want was greatly felt by the inhabitants, an Act of Assembly, passed in 1729, gives an additional premium of fifteen per cent. upon all such monies paid in as duties over and above the advanced rates established in 1708. The person who should claim the benefit of this law, was obliged to make oath that the money had not been previously exported from the Province, so that on its return it might be entitled to this allowance. This premium would make a rise in the value of the dollar to about forty-eight per cent., or about seven shillings in currency. A table adopted in 1763, as a standard for tobacco payments, reads as follows:

Johannes, to be worth	920	pounds of	tobacco
Half Johannes	460	"	"
Moidore	348	"	"
English Guinea	272	"	"
French Guinea	268	"	"
Spanish pistoles, not lighter than 4 dwt. 6 gr.	216	"	"
French milled pistoles	212	"	"
Arabian chequins	108	"	"
Other gold coin (German excepted), by the dwt.	50	"	"
French Silver Crowns	60	"	"
Spanish milled pieces of eight	60	"	"
Other good coined Spanish silver, per oz.	68	"	"

In 1773, we find the first and apparently entirely unexpected mention made of the dollar being valued at seven shillings and sixpence, the rate at which it finally settled. In this year, (ch. xxx.,) we find an Act valuing tobacco at one shilling and sixpence for twelve pounds, which, being properly carried out, will make the value of the dollar the amount above stated. An Act passed this session (ch. xxxiii.,) for the discharge of the public debts, provides for their payment at the valuation of $1 2-3 in bills of credit for every one hundred pounds of tobacco, and the dollar to be equal to seven shillings and sixpence. The exact time when, and the reason why this change took place, cannot with certainty be ascertained; only this result is known.

Such were the fluctuations of the dollar—established in 1686 at four shillings and sixpence, in 1708, at six shillings, and in 1773, appearing as seven shillings and sixpence. This latter valuation is followed by the Act of 1781, after the independence of the State, which affixed rates to foreign coins thereafter to be current. The following was the table adopted:

		£	s.	d.
Johannes, weighing	18 dwt	6	0	0
Half Johannes,	9 dwt.	3	0	0
Moidores,	6 dwt. 18 gr.	2	5	0
English Guineas,	5 dwt. 6 gr.	1	15	0
French Guineas,	5 dwt. 5 gr.	1	14	6
Doubloons,	17 dwt.	5	12	0
Spanish pistoles	4 dwt. 6 gr.	1	8	0
French milled pistoles,	4 dwt. 4 gr.	1	7	6
Arabian chequins,	2 dwt. 3 gr.	0	13	9
Other gold coin (German excepted), by the dwt.		0	6	8
English milled Crowns		0	8	4
Other milled silver		0	8	4
French silver Crowns		0	8	4
Spanish milled pieces of eight		0	7	6
Other good coined Spanish silver, per oz.		0	8	6
Any other gold coin of the same fineness, of Portugal or Spain, per oz.		6	13	4

A currency of paper founded upon tobacco, called Inspection Notes, arose in 1763, and we are told that as late as the beginning of the present century it still existed to a limited extent. The system was akin to and based upon that

which had existed for some years previous in Virginia, where it bore the name, yet more expressive, of tobacco notes. The staple was placed by the producer or owner in the public warehouses for his county, was duly inspected and branded by the proper officer, who gave for it a receipt, specifying the quality and quantity of the deposit; this receipt, or as it was called, Inspection Note, was a legal tender for all purposes in the county wherein it was issued, and the holders possessed the right of obtaining at any time from the storehouses the amount, etc., of tobacco, which the face of the note called for. This currency superseded that of the staple, which was then declared no longer to be a legal tender.

THE NEW EDITION OF MR. SHINKLE'S BOOK,

"U. S. Coins, Values and Lists."

The 1910 edition of Mr. Shinkle's excellent conception of a concise and useful guide to the coin colector of the value of all United States and pioneer coins is just out, and it so far surpasses the previous editions of the same work, that Mr. Shinkle would have been justified in doubling his price for this excellent work.

The book gives the latest auction records for all United States and Pioneer gold coins in their various conditions, together with a list of over 200 pattern cents, the largest list ever published. Besides the many additions in the text, Mr. Shinkle added seven more beautiful half-tone plates illustrating all the rare dates and types of the United States coins. It is indeed a valuable reference book. We have no doubt that the book will be well received by the numismatic fraternity, as it certainly deserves.

A copy of the book will be sent postpaid to any address upon receipt of the published price of $1.00, by B. Max Mehl, P. O. Drawer 976, Fort Worth, Texas.

THE HALF CENT.

The half cent, the smallest denomination coin of the United States coinage, enjoyes the distinction of being the first coin issued, and the first to be discontinued. It was issued in 1793 and discontinued in 1857; none were coined in 1798, 1799, 1801, 1812 to 1824, 1827, 1830, 1837, 1838 and 1839. The 1796 is the rarest of the entire series, and an uncirculated specimen sold at auction in 1908 for $300.00.

IMPORTANT FOREIGN SALES.

Dr. Jacob Hirsch, the expert numismatist of Munich, Germany, held a very important sale of ancient coins on the 9th of November and following days. The sale consisted of over 2,000 lots. The illustrated catalogue contains thirty-seven beautiful plates illustrating hundreds of the coins and thereby making the catalogue a valuable work of reference.

On the 21st of November, Herr Leo Hamburger, Frankfort a Main, Germany, sold an important collection of ancient and modern coins and medals, including many specimens of great beauty and value. More than two thousand lots. Twenty-eight fine plates, illustrating the rarer coins and medals accompany the catalogue.

Of interest to the majority of American colectors is the sale to be held in January by the old established firm of J. Schulman, Amsterdam, Holland. This sale includes a good collection of United States coins, the property of Rev. Foster Ely of Connecticut. The sale consist of more than twenty-five hundred lots in all. A catalogue with three fine plates may be had from the cataloguer.

Denford Numismatic Society

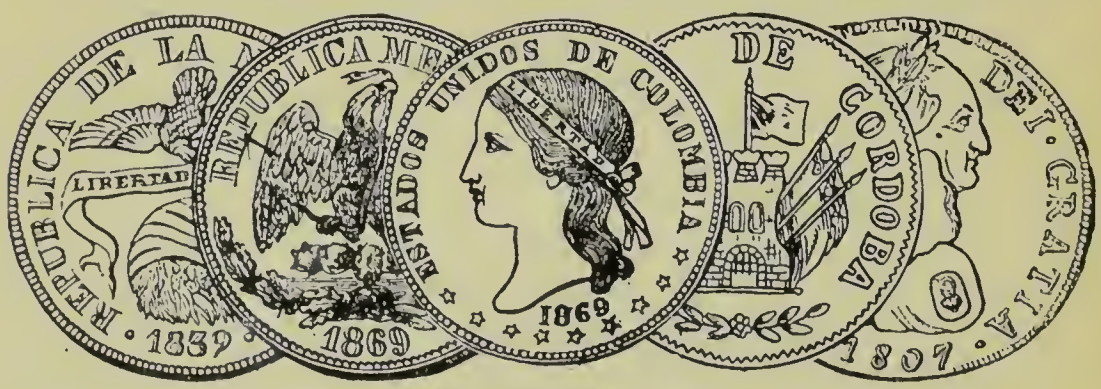
In Which the Coinage of South America Is Interestingly Discussed.

"I cannot understand," said Howard, "why the coinage of South America has received so little attention from collectors, nine out of every ten restrict their collecting to the United States series and consequently prices soar sky high. The Lincoln cents are being put away by thousands in hopes that in a few years they will be as valuable as the 1856 flying eagles. This may happen, and again it may not."

"It's all very well," said Blake, "to cry down our own series, but why should we turn to South America. Have they anything especially attractive to offer us? For my part I doubt very much whether I have more than a dozen coins from that region. Anyway, I do not see much in them."

"That is because you have never studied them," replied Howard. "Most of the coins are cheap and common, but many of them are interesting and of historical value. If you take Scott's catalogue—the 1893 edition—and start at British Guiana, you run up against our old friend George III, and the ½ and 1 stiver make a nice pair; then the obverse of the Stiver 1838 is from the same die as the reverse of Breton 964. My opinion is it should be credited to Canada. I should say—there are two distinct vars. of the Guiana 1838 stiver."

"Then the Dutch, French and Spanish Guiana issues are most interesting. Le Roux has claimed the Cayenne sou—the crowned "C" with blank reverse



for Canada, but this claim must not be taken seriously. Canadians have one great weakness. Whenever they find a coin without a settled home, they grab it and dub it "Canadian," and if it is an especially tough looking one, they place it on the pinnacle of honor and worship it as a 'blacksmith.'

"The early issues for Venezuela, Caracas, Carthagena and Santa Marta are especially interesting, and the coinage of Brazil offers splendid opportunities to the young collector. Beginning with Brazil No. 1 and 2—issued for Pernambuco—he can indulge his fancy for large coins at moderate prices, and gather together a most interesting collection. In addition to the coins issued from the Mint of Rio de Janeiro, the Provincial mints of Bahia, Ceara, Goyaz, Maranhao, Minas Geraes and Sao Paolo issued a series that will well repay the time spent in their study.

"The coins issued by the smaller Republics—Argentina, Bolivia, Chili, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay—are all interesting, and those issued for Buenos Ayres should not be neglected.

"To those interested in human affairs, there is something of fascination and absorbing interest in the coming of age of the twenty republics, whose territories run from the Gulf of Mexico to the Horn; in the spectacle of the Latin race renewing its youth in varied types, infused with new blood and new ideals.

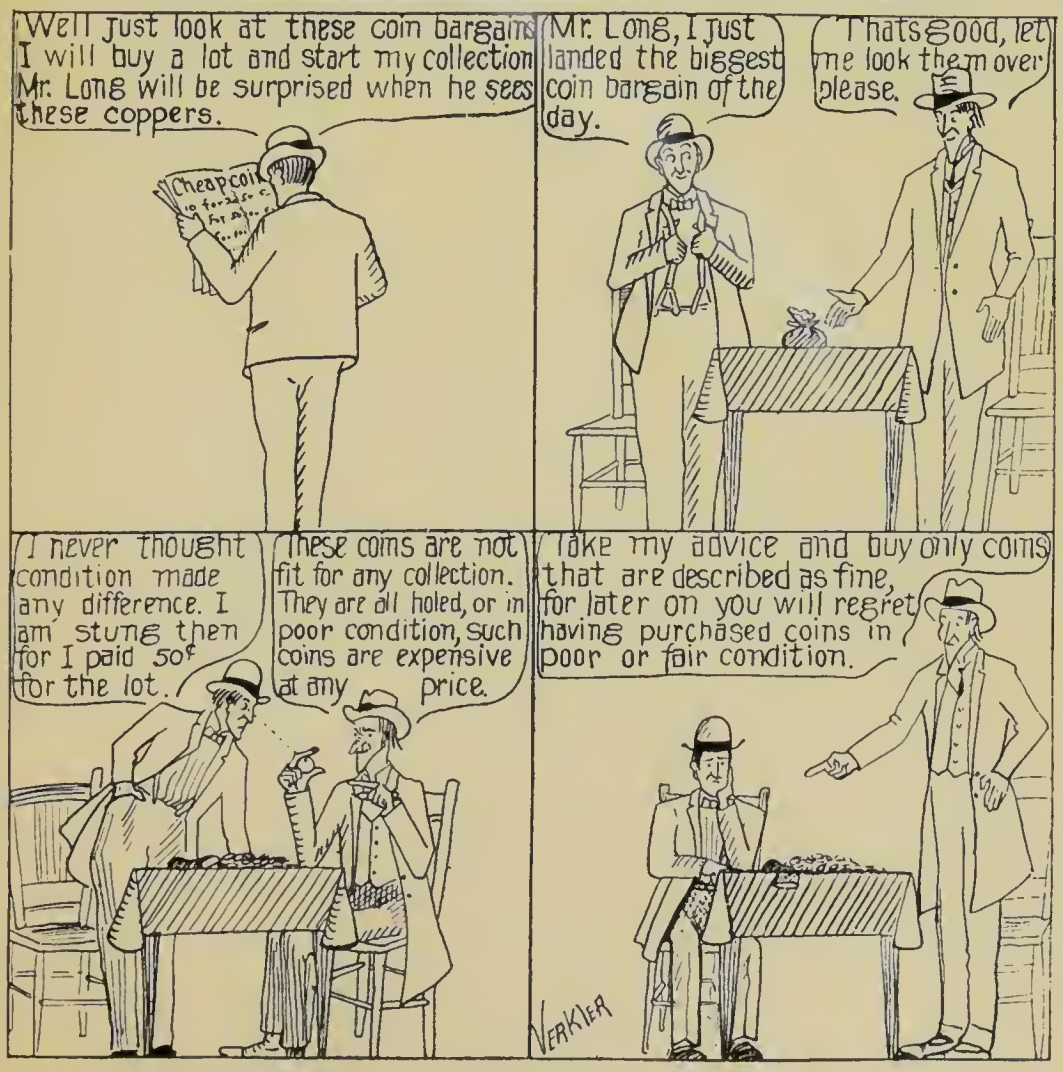
"We have been wont to marvel at the beanstalk growth of our own cities; yet Buenos Ayres and Valparaiso have for some time past been increasing more rapidly than any of these, with the exception of New York and Chicago. Twenty-five years ago travelers landed in small row boats at Buenos Ayres, a town of 40,000 inhabitants; today the city numbers some 1,200,000 souls and has nine miles of docks—and for all the average collector knows about it, it might be in the middle of China.

"During the last ten years, almost unnoticed, the foreign trade of the Argentine alone has grown to exceed that of the whole Chinese Empire; at the present time it averages about $100 per annum per head of the population, as against about $1.50 per head in China. The collective foreign trade of the twenty Latin-American republics averages $30 per annum for a population estimated at 70,000,000."

"Whereever did you ge all those figures from?" asked Jennings.

"From a recently published South American supplement issued by the London Times," answered Howard. "I take it for granted that the figures are correct. It also said that British capital is invested in the Argentine alone to the amount of some three hundred millions sterling; Brazil has absorbed one hundred and fifty millions; Chili, fifty-one millions; Uruguay, forty-six millions, and other States lesser amounts."

"I tell you, these figures were eye-openers to me, and have greatly increased my interest in the South American series. I shall continue to pay attention to them and hope to increase my collection from time to time."


Well just look at these coin bargains I will buy a lot and start my collection Mr. Long will be surprised when he sees these coppers.
Cheap coin
Mr. Long, I just landed the biggest coin bargain of the day.
Thats good, let me look them over please.
I never thought condition made any difference. I am stung then for I paid 50¢ for the lot.
These coins are not fit for any collection. They are all holed, or in poor condition, such coins are expensive at any price.
Take my advice and buy only coins that are described as fine, for later on you will regret having purchased coins in poor or fair condition.
VERKLER

MR. WATERBURY'S NUMISMATIC EXPERIENCES.

This is the second of a series of drawings especially prepared for the Numismatic Monthly, illustrating the unusual experiences of every new collector, and incidentally giving many good

Numismatic Terms

By B. W. GARDNER.

Many young collectors of coins are sometimes puzzled by the numerous terms used in describing coins when they begin to study learned books on the subject. Some method must be adopted in order to prevent mistakes, and beginners will find below a list of the ordinary terms generally used.

All modern coins are inscribed on both faces, but many ancient ones are to be found with only one side bearing a device. The side which bears the head of the sovereign who issued it, or the symbol of supreme power, by whose order it was struck, is known as the **obverse.** The other side, which has a less important device, and sometimes the value of the coin, is called the reverse.

U. S. SILVER DOLLAR, 1794.
Illustrating the "Head Type" and "Small Eagle."

The words round the edge of the coin is called the inscription, and this is sometimes the most important part of the coin. It may consist of only two letters like the S. C. to be found on many Roman coins. The inscription round the edge of the obverse is termed the legend and is frequently the name and titles of the issuing power or sovereign. EDWARDUS VII. DEI. GRA: BRITT: OMN: REX: FID: DEF: IND: IMP is the legend to be found on the coins issued by England.

The field of a coin is that part of the center of a coin which bears the various marks or figures and is not occupied by the head of a monarch. Behind the head of Elizabeth and Edward VI. on their coins may be found a rose. The thistle is also found on the coins of James I. These marks are known as symbols.

EARLY U. S. QUARTERS.
Illustrating the "Bust Type" and "Small" and "Large Eagles."

The lower part of the reverse where in modern coins the date is placed is the exergue. On ancient coins the mintage place is sometimes found here.

When a **bust** is spoken of the head and neck are meant, but if only the head is mentioned the bust is not

properly shown. Busts are shown to the right, or to the left, and are either in profile or three-quarter face. A few older coins like those of Henry VIII. show the king full face. Busts may also be draped, crowned, diademed or laureated. If the head is shown without covering o fany kind it is known as a bare head.

The crown on many of Victoria's coins is known as regal. Crowns found on the later Roman emperors' coins are called radial crowns.

William the Conqueror's coins show the bonnet crown. The edge of a coin is the surface of the rim. On our earlier coins an inscription is found impressed there, and which is termed as lettered edge.

Beginners will find these the most important terms they will perhaps have any doubt about. Any others will readily be understood when these have been mastered

A CALIFORNIA GOLD COIN.
Illustrating the "Diademed Head."

NOTED MUSEUM IS LOOTED.

MILAN, Oct. 15.—Thieves have broken into the historic Sforza Castle here and pillaged one of his five seums. Among other precious relics, they stole 150 gold coins of rare value, some of which date from the emperial age and the reign of Berengarius, besides an irreplaceable series illustrating the numismatic history of Milan in the days of the dukedom and of the Ambrosian republic.

NEW ISSUES.

Romania.—A new variety of the silver coins of this country has just recently been added. Obverse, profile head of king to left; inscription, CAROL. I. REGE. AL. ROMANIA. Reverse, Figure walking to right; inscription, ROMANIA 2 LEI. 1910.

Value, 2 Lei (40c), Date, 1910. Size, 28.

Belgium. One of the first coins of this country to bear the head of its new monarch has recently made its appearance in this country. Obverse, profile head to left. Inscription, ALBERT ROI. DES. BELGES. Reverse, wreath, within which is 1 FRANC. 1910; below wreath, L'UNION FAIT. LA. FORCE.

Value, 1 franc. Date, 1910. Silver. Size, 23. Milled edge.

We are indebted to the Messrs. Guttag Bros., Bankers, New York, for above information.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

When you receive a notice that your subscription has expired, please renew promptly, so that you will not miss the next number, as we discontinue sending the magazine as soon as the subscription expires.

Owing to the ever-increasing circulation of the Monthly, our supply of back numbers is very limited, and cannot be supplied at subscription rates. No back numbers are sold under 15 cents each, and only a very few of which are on hand, at 25 cents to 50 cents each. The first volume of the Monthly, 1908, is now selling at $2.00, the 1909 volume at $1 50. We have a few complete 1910 volues at $1.00.

If your subscription expires, renew promptly. Remit the 50 cents in any way most convenient to yourself.

When is a Dollar? Confuses Experts.

Centennial Coin Causes Dispute Between Numismatists of Philadelphia and New York.

When is a dollar? This is a question over which the numismatists of this city are at war with those of Philadelphia. And this is one of the answers: If it is a Centennial coin like the one which started all the trouble it may be worth twenty cents if it is not a dollar, and $10.50 if it is. Coin collectors of the two cities have been at war for several years, and between the dealers of this city and those of Philadelphia there is no love lost.

Philadelphia has until recent years been looked upon as the rare coin mart of the country, a vogue which came from the fact that the principal United States mint is situated there. Great coin sales lately have been held with alarming frequency in New York

It develops that S. H. Chapman, a Philadelphia dealer, in a catalogue for sale, stated that Thomas L. Elder, of New York, in a catalogue of a sale here, had described one of these coins as "very rare," while, as a matter of fact, it is "quite common."

Mr. Elder says the coin so described by Mr. Chapman was then put up at auction and sold for twenty cents, although he himself had left a bid of $3.75 on it.

He also declares that Mr. Chapman was concerned in having a Philadelphia newspaper publish a paragraph to the effect that, although Major Lambert had paid $10.50 for this bit of Centennial coinage, it was sold in Philadelphia for twenty cents. —New York Herald.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Through the kindness of Mr. Chas. Steigerwalt, the veteran numismatist of Lancaster, Penn., we are able to publish the following facts in regard to this so-called Centennial Dollar.

The so-called 1876 Centennial dollars are without doubt medals, as the original cases in which they were sold has in gilt letters "Commemorative Medal," and quotes the Act of Congress of June 16, 1874, which gave them a status as official medals against those struck by private individuals of which there were many of various designs.

Still, since its issue was authorized by Congress, the medal is an interesting commemorative issue and has been well appreciated by the numismatists of the country, as its scarcity proves.

Discussions upon any numismatic topic is always welcomed by the numismatic fraternity, as intelligent discussions upon any topic brings forth knowledge which otherwise would be unknown to the general collector, but we dare say that the numismatic science and those who are interested in its welfare will be better served if the topics are discussed without the unnecessary acrimonious remarks.

We are just now in the midst of an aggressive campaign for a larger circulation of the Numismatic Monthly. We are sending out a large number of sample copies each month. Our readers know how we appreciate any favors shown us, so if you know of any of your collecting friends who are not now receiving the monthly, you will oblige us by sending in their name for a free sample copy.

The New York Numismatic Club

The Twenty-fourth Regular Monthly Meeting of the New York Numismatic Club took place at Keen's Chop House, on the evening of Friday, November 18th.

A large gathering of the out-of-town membership being present in addition to the usual local attendance.

President Higgins occupied the chair.

The President addressed the Club at length on the subject of the proposed Numismatic salon and District Convention, to be held in New York during three days of next May under the auspices of the Club. The tentative program proposed by President Higgins was put to a vote and unanimously carried, he being authorized to form the necessary committees and take such steps as might seem best to insure the success of the occasion. Incidentally Monsieur Roine was accorded a vote of thanks for his generous offer to produce a medal of award to be offered by the Club on this occasion.

Mr. D. Macon Webster presented his report on the Heath Memorial Medal and announced that sufficient funds having been placed at the disposition of the committee, that the medal would be ordered engraved and struck forthwith by the Whitehead & Hoag Co., of Newark, New Jersey.

Mr. A. R. Frey, exhibited samples of the new Club badge in gold plate, rolled gold and solid gold with blue enamel and the latter was selected by all the members present.

Mr. Elliott Smith, chairman of the Nomination Committee, presented a report to the effect that his Committee had conferred with the membership and as the result of a unanimous recommendation so to do, nominated the following officers for the year 1911:

For President—Frank C Higgins.

Vice President—Albert R. Frey.

Secretary—Rudolph Kohler.

Treasurer—Wayte Raymond.

Executive Committee—Elliott Smith, Edgar H. Adams and Thomas L. Elder

An amendment to the Constitution of the Club was voted permitting of the creation of two additional offices, to take effect on January 1, 1911, those of Second Vice President and Attorney, Mr. W. W. C. Wilson, of Montreal, being nominated for the former office and Mr. D. Macon Webster for the latter.

The following new members were proposed and elected under suspended rules:

Mr. J. Weili, Mr. W. S. Herzog, Dr. D. W. Balentyne and Mr. Carl Wurzbach, of Lee, Mass.

Vice President Albert R. Frey was warmly congratulted upon his appointment to the editorship of the official organ of the American Numismatic Association.

DANIEL R. KEKNNEDY, Secretary.

COMMUNICATIONS

[Communications and contributions of articles on any numismatic topic are solicited and always thankfully received, but the publication of same cannot be held to be an endorsement by the editor of the views expressed.]

Santa Ana, Calif., Nov. 23rd, 1910.

Dear Mr. Mehl:

Kindly state in your valuable Monthly that when I wrote the letter published on page 172 I was misinformed as to Mr. Zerbe's desire to continue the ownership of the Numismatist, and that information in regard to the cost of being a member will be found on page 130 of your August-September issue.

Respectfully,

F. A. HASSLERR, M. D.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT HENDERSON.

Columbus, Ohio, November 24th. 1910.

Mr. B. Max Mehl,
Fort Worth, Texas.

My Dear Sir:

When I read the communictaion of Dr. Hassler, in your issue for November, I was astonished, especially when viewed in the light of circumstances, known only to a few.

Dr. Hassler has been a conscientious officer of the Association, and the only reason I can assign for his misstatements, and allusions, is that he is not cognizant of the real facts pertaining to the American Numismatic Association, and it's membership.

I do not believe the MONTHLY is the proper channel for discussions relating strictly to the A. N. A., but inasmuch as Dr. Hassler's communication has been published therein, I wish to reply through its columns.

The Association's official organ, THE NUMISMATIST, is the proper channel through which to discuss, publicly, questions pertaining to the policy of the Association, as it is read by every member of the Association, and by but few who are not members, while the MONTHLY is not read by all the members, and by several hundred non-members.

The Doctor's allusion to the increase in dues sounding the knell of the Association, is not warranted by the past, for following the advancement of dues to $1.50, for 1909 and 1910, the Association experienced the greatest increase in membership in its history. It is impossible for a collector to "spend money to better advantage on coins," than by subscribing to membership in some live numismatic organization. If for no other than commercial reasons, every collector of coins should apply for membership in an active numismatic society, for the benefits returned will be of more value than the amount expended.

Besides, dues have not "been increased to **three** times what it used to be." When the Association was founded in 1891, dues were placed at $1.00 per year, with an initiation fee of fifty cents. This continued until 1898, when the initiation fee was omitted, only to be resumed again in 1905, this arrangement continuing in effect until 1909, when annual dues were placed at $1.50 and initiation fee again discontinued. Who shall say that the active leaders of the Association have not planned well in the past, for during the past three years the membership has almost doubled, now numbering close to 700.

During all these years the Official Organ of the Association, THE NUMISMATIST, was privately owned, and had to be paid for out of the dues received.

The recent convention of the Association, held in New York City, after full debate, created an initiation fee of $1.00, and advanced the dues to $2.00 per annum, clearly not **triple** what they were formerly.

At this convention action was taken relative to acquiring THE NUMISMATIST as the property of the Association, and I am happy to state that this has since been accomplished, by the action of our generous-hearted First Vice President, W. W. C. Wilson, who purchased the property, and will convey it by gift to the Association.

Thus, beginning with January 1st, 1911, the Association will stand on it's merits, publishing its own Magazine, striking medals, issuing a Year Book, etc., etc.

The Association is now experiencing a transition from being a nominal subscription list to a numismatic publication, to a REAL numismatic society.

Much more could be said, but I do not wish to infringe on your valuable space.

Expressing appreciation for the many courtesies you have extended to me in the past, and thanking you for publishing this letter, I am, sir,

Respectfully,

J. M. HENDERSON,
President American Numismatic Association.

NEWLY DISCOVERED VARIETY 1839 EAGLE.

Denver, Colorado, November 22nd, 1910.

Mr. B. Max Mehl,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Sir—I recently picked up an 1839 Eagle, the type of which is new to me, at least the common type of 1839 Eagle is an exact copy of 1838, with date under and in front of bust; hair combed down over ear, except the point of lobe; large stars and large letters. But the one under consideration is decidedly different. The letters and stars are smaller, the head is upright with date exactly under the neck and very compact; the hair is combed back exposing the ear; the profile is finer in expression.

I have seen a large number of 1839 eagles, but this is the first one of this type; it is an exact copy of 1840, and I shall designate it as "1839 type of 1840"

I have had much pleasure in collecting mint marked coins, as well as seeking decided varieties of the Philadelphia Mint.

Very truly yours,

C. W. COWELL.

History of the United States Coinage Especially Prepared for the Younger Collectors.

We now have in course of preparation a history of the coinage of the United States. It is our intentions to publish the first installment in the January issue of the Monthly.

This series of articles, which will cover the entire coinage of the United States, is being prepared with the intention of particularly being of assistance and interest to the beginner and younger collector. The history will be fully illustrated with the principal types and varieties of the coinages, but will not include the numerous minor varieties which appeal only to the more advanced collector.

NUMISMATIC LANDMARK TO BE REMOVED.

The forthcoming demolition of the old time Singer Building at the corner of Fourteenth street and Broadway will remove a numismatic landmark which has been under the eyes of New Yorkers for many years.

The building was for a long time the headquarters of Mr Lyman H. Low, and afterwards has been most associated with the name of David Proskey, President of the New York Coin and Stamp Company. Mr. Proskey received a very sudden notice to vacate in common with other tenants of the doomed building and is now engaged in transferring a very valuable collection of antiques to No. 8, East Thirtieth street, where his shingle will henceforth hang upon the outer wall. Few out-of-town collectors who associate Mr. Proskey's name chiefly with Numismatics realize that he has practically the finest collection of old pictures, arms, armour, bronzes and bric-a-brac in the United States. His collection of Tanagra stanettes is undoubtedly the finest in this country.

THE EARLIEST COINS.

Earliest history refers familiarly to the use of gold and silver as a purchasing medium, but the metals were exchanged in the form of bars or dust for many centuries. Even today the Chinese prefer their gold and silver in bullion form. In the great African desert a sale is for so many ounces of gold dust. The credit of making the first gold coins is given to the Lydians by Herodotus, and the first silver coins are supposed to have been minted on the Island of Egina, 860 B. C. There are to be found in the various large museums of the world coins of Persia issued 350 B. C. The earliest coins known in Palestine were called Daric, or king's money (from Darius), and were coined 450 B. C. In the year 139 B C. Antiochus VII. granted the privilege of coining money among the Jews to Simon Maccabeus, and the various pieces are dated "in the first (or second) year of Simon, benefactor of the Jews, high priest." The earliest Biblical mention of wealth is that of Abraham, when he left Egypt to return to Canaan, and the 1,000 pieces of silver that Abimelech gave to Abraham for Sarah's use. Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah and weighed to Ephron 400 shekels of silver. Achan stole a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels.—Montreal Standard.

GREAT WORK ON ANCIENT COINS.

We are informed by the author, Mr. L. Anson, that the summary and plates of the six parts of his magnificent work on Ancient coins has been published. We have not yet had the pleasure of seeing the volumes, but we expect to be able to give a full review and further information regarding this work in the next issue of the Monthly.

NEW COINAGE FOR THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The Daily Mail of October 21st contained the first reproduction of Mr. McKennal's design for the new British coinage. It is shown on a medal struck recently in commemoration of the founding of the Union Parliament of South Africa and while presenting no striking artistic points is on the whole a neat and effective piece of work following closely Herr Fuchs Edwardian design. The head is uncrowned and following the numismatic rule, the profile is reversed facing to the left instead of to the right as in the case of the King Edward VII coinage. No announcement of the date of issue of the new coinage has as yet been made.—Ex.

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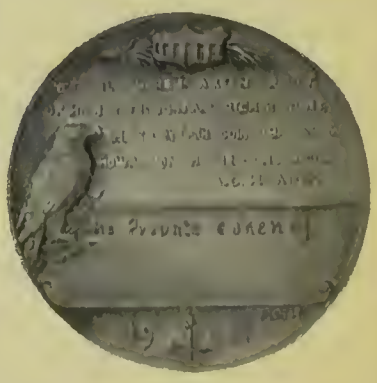

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